

Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, AUGUST 7-9, 2015 | High 24°C/Low 10°C Mostly sunny



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metroNEWS









WHOOOOO WILL HELP US?

Wildlife centre may be forced to close

metroNEWS

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Downturn means bus driver boom

ECONOMY

Applications flood in for 'recession-proof' jobs



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The economic downturn has proven to be an advantage for Calgary and area school bus companies.

Last summer, Southland Transportation was short dozens of drivers and managers ended up having to drive some routes in September, in an "all hands on deck" scenario. This year, the company says applications are up and they're on track to have a full complement of drivers by the start of the school year.

First Student Calgary has also seen a 32-per-cent increase in bus-driver applicants compared to last year.

"It's huge. It's unfair for me to say, but whenever we hit the 'R' word, the recession, it actually benefits our business," said Mike Stiles, assistant location and safety manager. "We are recession-proof," he added. "Kids always have to get to school. We have guaranteed jobs."

Some part-time drivers use the position to supplement income from a full-time job, he added.

DRIVER'S SEAT
First Student expects to have close to 800 total drivers at the beginning of the school year. It still has 35 open positions.



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IN BRIEF

Police fear approach of the 'blessing scam'

Calgary police are warning residents of a scam that targets members of the Southeast Asian community.

Police say there are no confirmed reports of people being victimized by this scam in Calgary but there is indication a criminal group is moving across Canada targeting elderly Chinese women.

They call it the "blessing scam."

Thieves will tell victims that an evil spirit will harm their son or grandson if they do not have their money and valuables blessed. Victims are asked to bring their valuables in a container, at which point the scammer switches the bag with one filled with worthless items. The victims are told not to open the bag or tell anyone.

Investigators say these thefts often go unreported.

Calgary police were alerted to the rise of "blessing scams" by the Vancouver Police Department, which has since made a number of arrests. METRO

CORRECTION

Date for Buddhist temple open house incorrect

There is an open house at the new Calgary Buddhist Temple, but it's not this Saturday.

It's actually set for Saturday, Aug. 22, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's story. METRO



"The people of Alberta made their choice" on policy options in the election, said Premier Rachel Notley. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO FILE

Notley mocks PM's 'disaster' narrative

POLITICS

Tax changes just fulfilling a campaign vow, says premier



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Premier Rachel Notley directly responded Thursday to Stephen Harper's earlier assertion that her government's tax policy has already been an "absolute disaster," though she didn't mention the Conservative leader by name.

"I completely reject the Conservative campaign's comments about the decisions of the people of Alberta," Notley told reporters Thursday morning. "Whether their federal cousins like it or not, the people of Alberta decided they'd had enough of the Conservative government."

The premier said her government was simply following through on a campaign promise when it scrapped the "unfair health levy" proposed by the PCs prior to the May election and instead increased the provincial corporate tax rate and the personal income tax rates of people earning $125,000 or more.

"We will work ... with whoever is elected ... as amicably and as co-operatively as they choose to allow. Premier Rachel Notley

At a campaign stop on Monday, Harper criticized Notley's decision to delay a budget until October while still acting to change Alberta's tax structure.

"The new NDP government — they can't present a budget, but what was the first thing they did? They raised taxes, and that's a disaster, an absolute disaster," Harper said.

BYELECTION

Calgary-Foothills again off to polls

Voters in the Calgary-Foothills constituency will go to the polls on Sept. 3 to elect a member of the Alberta legislature.

NDP Premier Rachel Notley announced the date Thursday and defended the timing, given that the federal election campaign will be in full swing then and that only her party and the Liberals have byelection candidates in place.

She said all parties knew there would be a federal election on Oct. 19 and that the Alberta legislature would sit again in October to pass a budget.

"It shouldn't be coming as a surprise to anybody who can look at a calendar," said Notley.

"The alternative would be .... for us to go into a fall session to talk about a budget without the people of Foothills having an MLA. To me, that is a much bigger transgression."

It will be the third time in less than a year that Calgary-Foothills voters will head to the polls.

Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark said it's unfair to Foothills residents to run a byelection in tandem with the federal campaign and to not give them a chance to pass judgment on Notley's budget.

"It really appears that the provincial NDP want to piggyback off the federal NDP campaign rather than running on the merits of their own budget this fall," said Clark. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ANTHONY PARKER VISITS THE CALGARY ZOO WITH HIS WIFE PATRICIA AND CHILDREN ABRIELLE, 3, AND D'ANGELO, 1, DURING THE STAMPEDERS' BYE WEEK IN THE CFL. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

METROTALKS STAMPEDERS

EACH WEEK WE'RE TAKING YOU BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PLAYERS, FANS, COACHES AND OTHERS WORKING WITH THE TEAM TO FIND OUT WHAT MAKES THEM TICK.

PARKER LEADS THE CHARGE AT HOME

Candice Ward
For Metro | Calgary

On the field, Anthony Parker is a hometown favourite in the wide receiver position for the Calgary Stampeders.

Off the field, he is the loving husband to wife Patricia and father of two children (soon to be three), Abrielle, 3, and D'Angelo, 1.

The 25-year-old Grey Cup champion talks with Metro about how he uses his football status to positively impact his community and continue his family legacy.

Leading Change at home

For Parker, using his status as a Stampeder to create change within the community is something he greatly values.

Off the field, Parker participates in Leading Change: The Alberta CFL Project, an initiative that partners members from the CFL with the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) to fight against domestic violence and abuse against women.

"It is close to home for me — my wife, my mother-in-law and my mom have all been directly affected by domestic violence," said Parker.

"It was a no-brainer to why a program like this is needed."

The program targets men in junior and senior high — usually through sports teams — to give them the tools to create social change.

"Men are going to be the biggest factors in creating change because we are the perpetrators, as well. If we can work toward correcting attitudes, that will work toward changing the overall picture," said Parker.

Parker has also recently become involved in Empowering the Movement: MyHomeFront Campaign aimed at raising public awareness about domestic violence through the services offered by HomeFront.

Family affair

Growing up, Parker said he "stumbled into football" and it was never something he was pushed into doing, despite the fact that his father, also named Anthony Parker, and his uncle Andy Jonassen both played for the Calgary Stampeders.

"To me, I think it's a pretty cool thing to think about three people in a family playing for the same professional team and to follow in their footsteps is pretty cool," he said.

"I think what's even more interesting is that it's on both sides (dad and mom), so I guess it was meant to be."

Parker did not actually start playing football until he was about 11 years old when his family moved to Okotoks.

"I ended up really loving it and turned out I was all right at it," said Parker.

When it comes to his own children, he said he would like to see them be involved in playing football, but would not push them to pursue a career in it.

Hometown boy

A product of the University of Calgary Dinos football program, Parker was drafted into the CFL by the Stampeders in 2011 and has spent his whole career so far with the reigning Grey Cup champs.

He has also spent his entire university and pro career with teammate Matt Walter.

"People probably think we are strange because we eat together, we sit at practice together when we are not doing anything, we are on the bench together, and now we are rooming together on the road," said Parker.

While he hopes to play out the remainder of his career in Calgary, he understands that aspect of the game is not always within his control.

At Home

As a husband and father to two young children, life off the field for Parker is not one filled with wild adventures that some people may associate with a pro football player.

"I'm easygoing. I just play at home with the kids and relax," he said. "But this summer is good to head out to Calaway Park, or for going to Riley Park with the kids."

When he does take some time for himself, he said he likes to try and keep himself in shape.

"I just bought myself a bike finally; I've been meaning to do that for a few years," said Parker.

Calling it Quits

For Parker, the greatest fear is not being in control of when the end of his career comes.

"I hope I don't get myself into a position where I have to keep playing to pay bills," said Parker.

"I hope I can make the decision when to leave before they get tired of me or before an injury takes it away — I just want to be the one to decide when I am going to leave the game."

PARKER Q&A

What's Anthony Parker's favourite sport other than football? Is he a beer or wine man? What's his favourite hangout in Calgary? We asked him all that and more in this week's Metro Talks Lightning Round.

Favourite sport other than football to watch? Hockey and NBA — playoffs specifically.

What do you love to talk about but no one ever asks you about? Some of the off-the-field work I do against domestic violence.

All-time favourite Stampeder (past or present): Nik Lewis.

Favourite Calgary Hangout: Riley Park with the kids.

What is your ideal vacation? Beach, two weeks.

If we turned on your iPod, what would be playing? I don't have an iPod. A little bit of trance and hip hop and R&B.

What movie could you watch over and over again? Home Alone.

Bucket list item you are dying to cross off? I want to do the Amazing Race.

Early bird or night owl? Night owl.

Beer or wine? Beer.

If you never became a football player, what would you have become? Real estate agent.



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Calgary: Uber's allies

TRANSPORTATION

Poll shows city would be happy with ride-share service in town



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

A poll commissioned by Uber, the popular ride-share company, has found that a majority of Calgarians would be in favour of the taxi service coming to Cowtown.

When asked if they would support the city welcoming Uber to town, two out of three Calgarians — 64 per cent — said they would be in favour of seeing the app-run ride-hailing service hit our streets.

The service launched its popular and controversial UberX in Edmonton late last year. That was followed by a protest rally of over 30 taxi drivers, a failed court injunction to stop the company from operating while new regulations are being drafted, and other trials and tribulations.



Most Calgarians think Uber should come to town, according to a poll. METRO FILE

In Calgary, Uber has expressed interest in launching its Uber Black service, which is equivalent to the city's taxi sedan services.

Currently, regulations do not allow for the on-demand mobile model to operate, as limousines must be booked 30 minutes in advance and have a minimum charge of $80 to operate. But proposed changes to relax those rules by the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee could be coming to council, potentially paving the way for Uber Black in Calgary.

As previously reported by Metro, Uber has not yet officially expressed interest in bringing its UberX service to the city.

Ramit Kar, general manager for Uber in Alberta, said there is no official timeline for an Uber launch in Calgary but noted the poll results show riders are definitely interested in their product.

"We look at several different factors before we decide to launch, including driver interest as well as rider interest," Kar said. "It's definitely a positive factor in that sense that Calgarians are looking for Uber to be one of those transportation alternatives.

"Having said that, we're still looking at other factors that could make a launch feasible."

IN BRIEF

Man charged with attempted murder

Police have arrested and charged one man in relation to a stabbing in the city's northeast Wednesday morning.

Police said officers responded to a call in the 400 block of Thorncliffe Drive around 3:50 a.m. Wednesday. A woman was rushed to hospital in critical condition but has since been upgraded to stable condition. A man was arrested Wednesday and faces a charge of attempted murder.

Police said the incident was domestic in nature and are not releasing details about the victim or the suspect in order to protect the identity of the victim. METRO

Missing woman located

Calgary police said a woman reported missing late last week has been located in Kananaskis.

Alanna Tracey was reported missing on Aug. 1 from a home in the community of Dover.

She was located Thursday with help from Kananaskis RCMP and Alpine Helicopters. METRO

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Wildlife centre's financial woes

STRUGGLING

Hospital runs on donations only, building falling apart



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Thousands of injured and sick animals in Alberta may soon be without a home to rest and recuperate.

The Medicine River Wildlife Centre near Red Deer may be forced to closed if the centre cannot raise $400,000 for a new wildlife hospital before the winter.

If that happens, the animals currently housed in the facility will have to be relocated to other centres in Alberta, such as the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society.

But, as these centres do not receive any government funding, it might be difficult for them to inherit such a large influx of animals.

"We work on donations, so all of us are running on the lowest budgets possible," said Andrea Hunt, executive director of the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society.

"We would do the best we could to take on the influx, but it's a struggle for every wildlife centre."

Hunt's centre receives an average of 40 animals per day during the summer and sees about 2,000 animals each year, on average.

Carol Kelly, executive director of The Medicine River Wildlife Centre, said they expect to take care of about 2,000 animals by the end of the year as well.

They say the centre's staff and equipment runs well, however the building, which was built on a shoestring budget more than two decades ago, is now worn out.

The heating system doesn't operate, the ceiling is caving in, and the walls are crumbling.

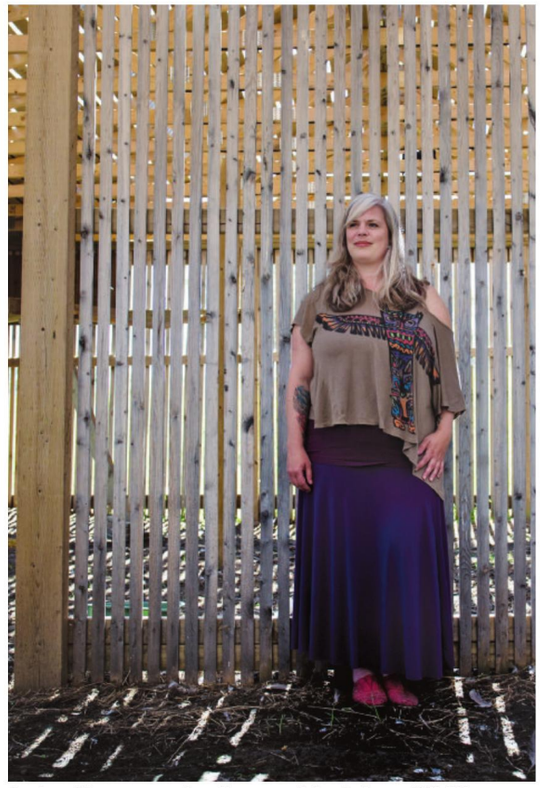
> **We work on donations, so all of us are running on the lowest budgets possible.**
> Andrea Hunt, executive director of the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

Kelly said it doesn't have another winter left in it.

"We have thousands of people turn to us every year for help," she said. "And we're hoping those people will realize we need their help now."

Kelly says they have some of the funding already in place, but need more.

A recent IndieGoGo campaign raised a little more than $20,000 and now the centre is exploring other funding avenues.



Andrea Hunt, executive director of the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, says that if the Medicine River Wildlife Centre near Red Deer closes, there would be room for only a few of the animals at her shelter. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Minister not ready to declare provincial state of agricultural emergency

Alberta's agriculture minister says the drought means some farmers will face a dismal year but he isn't ready to declare a province-wide state of agricultural emergency.

Oneil Carlier says he recently toured a number of regions that have declared local emergencies.

He says some crops barely came up over his ankle and it is going to be a struggle for many producers.

It's estimated that crop yields this year could be 25 to 30 per cent below the five-year average.

The Alberta government has responded by cutting rental fees in half for a program that helps farmers pump water to fill their dams and dugouts.

The province is also working with municipalities to identify additional public lands for grazing to help producers feed their livestock.

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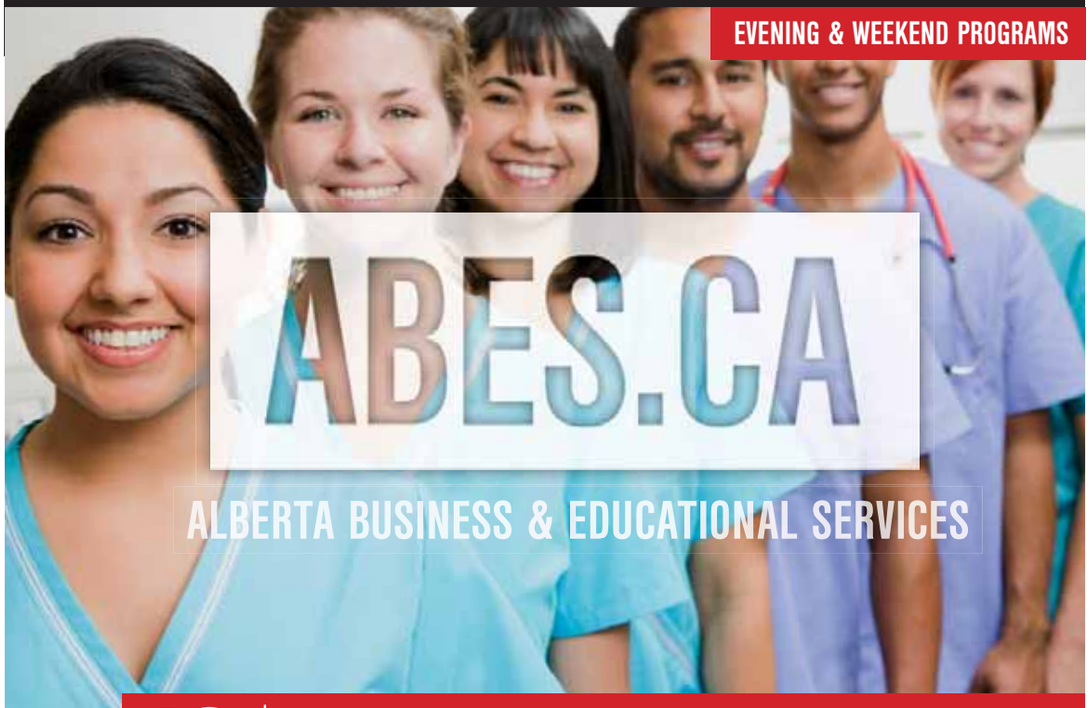
Friday — Ricky Skaggs
The bluegrass and country veteran returns to Calgary, mandolin in hand, to play a show at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino. The singer is a multiple Grammy and Country Music Association award winner. If you like bluegrass, Skaggs gives a master class in it.

Saturday — Afrikadey! Festival
Afrikadey! is one of Calgary's most vibrant cultural events. The week-long festival culminates with an outdoor party at Prince's Island Park featuring food, art and musical acts. This year's artists include Ghanaian reggae star Rocky Dawuni and Congolese singer Bill Clinton Kalonji.
Afrikaydey.com

Saturday — Chinatown Street Festival
About 50,000 people are expected to check out this great event, taking place in Chinatown downtown between Riverfront Avenue and Centre Street. Sample Asian cuisine, enjoy tai chi demonstrations or purchase cool items from a number of Chinatown vendors.
ChinatownCalgary.com

Sunday — Marda Gras Street Festival
Yet another summer festival rounds out the weekend. This family friendly one has been going strong in Marda Loop for the past three decades and features plenty of food and shopping vendors, plus dance demonstrations, music performances and other activities.
Mardagras.ca

LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

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Carnage plays Chasing Summer in Calgary this weekend.
CONTRIBUTED

DJ Carnage presents

MUSIC

Western Canada's largest electronic fest

Lisa Wilton
For Metro

Some of dance music's biggest names will play the Chasing Summer Festival in front roughly 30,000 underdressed EDM fans at Fort Calgary this Friday and Saturday. Among those on tap for western Canada's largest electronic music festival are Tiesto, Kaskade, Afrojack and L.A.-based DJ and producer, Carnage.

The 24-year-old Carnage, whose real name is Diamante Blackmon, began deejaying about seven years ago and gained attention for his remix of Hardwell's track, Spaceman.

Metro caught up with Carnage to talk festivals and his love of American restaurant chain, Chipotle.

As a DJ, what do you like about an outdoor festival atmosphere compared to an indoor set?
There's just something about festivals that's so big and takes everything to the next level. It's just awesome. Everybody's just relaxed. They've been waiting the whole year for these summer events, you know.

What was your introduction to deejaying and what made you want to focus on it as a career?
I fell in love with dance music and I thought, 'This is what I want to do for the rest of my life.' Playing in front of thousands of people, or just hundreds or tens of people, it's just cool to know that I'm letting people forget about anything negative or forget about their lives for a little while and just have fun.

What was your first time on stage like?
The first time I was on stage was at a place called The Black Hole in Baltimore. It was pretty crazy. It was so amazing.

The DJ scene is pretty saturated. What differentiates you from other DJs?
I just like to bang it out. I like to play aggressive music. I'm an aggressive DJ. I go really fast and when people see me it's kind of like a spectacle. I'm just giving them a show. I like to take people on journeys with my music.

Who's your dream collaboration?
Kanye West.

Have you made any steps towards making that a reality?
No, I'm just going to let things come as they come. When everything is ready I think it will happen.

Your love of Chipotle Mexican Grill is well documented ...
I was just like, 'I love Chipotle' and people were like, 'I love Chipotle too.' So I started a hashtag #ChipotleGang (and Twitter account @chipotlegang) and (the company) reached out and gave us a card.

So you can just walk in and get free Chipotle burritos?
Yeah, I have a lifetime supply of Chipotle cards, so I just give them cards.

Lion King comes roaring back

SCENE YYC

Technical director chose show business over software

Lisa Wilton
For Metro



The Lion King returns to Calgary's Jubilee Auditorium on Tuesday for a month-long run. CONTRIBUTED

Being the technical director of one of the world's biggest touring productions comes with its share of headaches.

But for David Benken, the perks of working with Broadway's The Lion King outweigh the stress.

"There's something about sitting in a theatre on opening night and hearing the applause and seeing people on their feet after the show," says Benken, who took an almost decade-long hiatus from theatre to work for Hewlett-Packard and Dow Jones.

"You just don't get that when you're writing software.

"I remember the first show we did in Milwaukee and I was sitting in the back with my fingers crossed, as you do on opening night. But it was wonderful. The audience loved it and people were walking past me afterwards and congratulating me. They didn't know what I did, but because I was sitting at the back of the venue they figured I had something to do with it."

Benken started his path to the professional theatre world in high school, where he performed in a handful of plays.

But it was after auditioning for a musical that he took interest in the behind-the-scenes aspect of stage productions.

"The director asked me if I wanted to try out for a position backstage, so I don't think he was impressed with my singing," Benken recalls with a laugh.

So Benken focused on theatre's technical elements and is now one of the busiest technical directors and production managers in the business, having worked on such complex Broadway spectacles as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Mary Poppins, The Little Mermaid, Annie and Motown: The Musical.

Although a director has final creative say on a production, Benken adds that there is often give and take between the creative and technical sides.

"As long as there's enough money, there's very little you can't do with a show these days," he says. "It's more a question of there are sometimes two ways of doing things.

"It's more about implementing what the designers and the directors have in the time frame and budget that the producers allow."

Benken suggests getting to the show on time.

"The first 10 minutes are amazing," he says. "It's probably the most spectacular moment of the show."

IF YOU GO

The Lion King is a two-and-a-half-hour show and runs at the Jubilee Auditorium from Aug. 11 until Sept. 6. Tickets are available online at Calgary.broadway.com or by calling 1-866-532-7369.





Volunteers from the Drop-In Centre spent an hour and a half cleaning up the river bank. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

EXTREME WEATHER

Drop-In clients help clean up

After two days of extreme weather and winds gusting over 80 km/h, bits of garbage and debris were knocked out of hiding and all over Calgary's streets.

Jorge Campusano, volunteer coordinator at the Drop-In Centre, woke on Thursday morning to another bout of pouring rain.

He thought it might put the centre's scheduled clean-up mission on the back burner, but as he walked in to work he was approached by one of the centre's clients requesting to help clean up the streets.

"It inspired me. I was really touched by that," said Campusano. "There was a lot to clean up, and I'm sure there is a lot left for city crews, so whatever we can do to help, we'll do."

A group of seven clients and volunteers from the centre filled up 12 garbage bags full of debris left along the river bed and under bridges.

It was the first time Glen Miller joined in the effort, and he said it won't be the last.

"When you see a cleaner area, you feel better about your day, like you did something positive," said Miller.

"It feels good to give back and kind of pay it forward."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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Myka Osinchuk, CEO of the Alberta Cancer Foundation, launched the 16th annual Cash and Cars Lottery on Thursday with a tour of the fully furnished dream home in Calgary's southwest. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

$4.7 million in prizes up for grabs

CASH AND CARS LOTTERY

Grand prize is a furnished dream home in southwest



Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

When Mary Beth Eckersley was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012, it was the second time she was told she had the disease.

Now, after a year of chemotherapy, a month of radiation and surgery, Eckersley's nearing remission, something she says is "directly connected" to the research done at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

"I am living proof that research works," she said. "People are surviving because of the work being done at the Tom Baker and the Alberta Cancer Foundation."

The Alberta Cancer Foundation invests in all the 17 cancer centres across Alberta, and on Thursday they launched the 16th annual Cash and Cars Lottery, offering up 3,002 prizes worth more than $4.7 million.

Money raised in the lottery will help fund research and compassionate care for Albertan cancer centres, including the Tom Baker and the new comprehensive cancer centre the NDP government pledged to build on the site.

"Right now, here in Calgary, patients can go to five or six different facilities in one day to receive their treatment," said Myka Osinchuk, CEO of the foundation. "(The NDP's) commitment certainly seems very strong … so we are very much looking forward to hearing the details and participating on behalf of our donors in investing in the new cancer centre."

The lottery's grand prize is a fully furnished dream home in Calgary's southwest, along with a 2016 Acura ILX Premium and $10,000. Other prizes include $500,000 in cash, 11 vehicles and 11 vacations.

Tickets can be purchased online at cashandcarslottery.ca or over the phone at 1-877-783-7403.

IN BRIEF

Truck smashes into mall

Police were searching for two male suspects Thursday after an early-morning smash-and-grab in which a truck crashed though a shopping mall's doors. Just after 4:20 a.m, police responded to a call of a white truck driving through the south entrance of North Hill Centre, located on the 1600 block of 14 Avenue NW. Once inside, police said the suspects drove into a jewelry store and stole a number of items. The truck was found a short distance away later in the morning. METRO

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Alberta lessons for federal candidates

CAMPAIGN

Our NDP win could teach politicians a thing or two

IN DEFENCE OF



Mike Morrison
Metro | Calgary

A few days ago, Albertans let out a collective groan of frustration because despite just going through an early provincial election, we're now being asked to suffer through the longest federal election in over a century.

So, instead of basking in the final weeks of summer, we're now forced to avoid phone polls and politicians on our doorsteps.

With the memory of Alberta's historic election so fresh on our minds, I wonder if any of the politicians running federally were paying close enough attention to learn any lessons?

For example, the new crop of candidates can blame who they want, as long as they don't blame Albertans. Before Stephen Harper called Alberta's NDP government a "disaster" a few days ago, he should have asked Jim Prentice how telling Albertans to look in the mirror worked for him. The electorate is smart; implying anything else will likely be an actual disaster.

And much like last year's PC leadership race, the Calgary Pride Parade is now smack dab in the middle of the federal election. Last year's parade featured several politicians who saw the 50,000-person event as an excellent opportunity to campaign.

The problem? A few weeks later, many of them voted against gay-straight alliances.

I thought some Conservatives would try something similar this year, but according to Pride Calgary, no Conservative MPs have signed up to attend, which is probably for the best. If they or you want to come to Pride, please do. I only ask that it's for the right reasons.

And it seems strange to me that this has to be said in 2015, but yes, all candidates should be using Twitter. And when I say candidates, I mean the actual candidates, not someone who is pretending to be them. Take a page out of the Mayor Naheed Nenshi's social-media playbook and engage with the people, even if you don't like what they have to say.

Jim Prentice's long-abandoned Twitter account doesn't include a single reply to anyone, even his partisan supporters. If your hope is for voters to feel like they know you, the online relationship is probably more important than the one politicians might get from door-knocking. That's why Tinder exists, after all.

Alberta's last provincial election will be talked about for years to come. The electorate said loud and clear what they wanted, and it'll be interesting to see if anyone running federally was listening.

Mike Morrison tweets from @mikesbloggity.



Jim Prentice casts his vote on May 5. Hours later, he resigned as leader and as MLA, as his PC party went down in a historic defeat. Might that election hold lessons for the federal campaign?
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Sleepwalking blamed in death

CHRIS HYNDMAN

Experts weigh in on dangers associated with disorder

A mother's suggestion that her son, TV personality Chris Hyndman, plunged to his death while sleepwalking has shone a light on the dangers associated with the disorder.

Glenda Hyndman told the Toronto Star that she believed her son fell to his death while sleepwalking on the terrace of the downtown Toronto home he shared with his husband and professional partner Steven Sabados.

Sleep researchers say there have been documented cases in which sleepwalkers engage in very complex activities and wind up inflicting harm on themselves or others. However, they say those cases make up the extreme minority of the situations they encounter.

Hyndman, co-star of CBC fashion and design show Steven and Chris, was found lying in an alleyway outside his home late Monday evening. Police have not identified a cause of death but have suggested that there is no criminal investigation underway.

Colleen Carney, director of the Sleep and Depression Laboratory at Ryerson University, said Hyndman's death would be a tragic rarity if it was caused by a fatal sleepwalking accident.

"Injuries during sleepwalking tend to be mild, but there's tremendous variability in sleepwalking and also the severity of it," Carney said.

Somnambulance is unusual in adults. Dr. Sat Sharma, medical director for Toronto's Centre for Sleep and Chronobiology, said that less than one per cent of the adult population suffers from the condition, which is most prevalent in childhood.

> **We want to protect them, so get them back to bed.**
> Colleen Carney

Sharma said most sleepwalkers confine themselves to wandering aimlessly in their homes and usually find themselves unable to perform complex tasks like unlocking doors.

Such actions are possible, though, for those with particularly grave conditions. Sharma said risk of injury is "very serious" in such instances.

Carney said one popular misconception about sleepwalkers is that they should not be awakened if a family member finds them on the move.

"That myth, 'Don't wake a sleepwalker,' we say, 'Sure you can,'" she said. "We want to protect them, so get them back into bed." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chris Hyndman, right, with husband Steven Sabados. Hyndman's mother believes he fell to his death while sleepwalking. RYAN EMBERLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

ALCOHOLISM

Online AA sites on rise

Face-to-face meetings are more effective than online groups for those trying to curb alcohol abuse, but use of web-based sobriety support sites is steadily growing, an international survey has found.

The survey of 196 adults with alcohol addiction, including some Canadians, was presented Thursday at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in Toronto.

"Face-to-face killed it, crushed it," said lead researcher Don Grant of Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif., referring to in-person meetings versus online support.

While respondents overall reported preferring face-to-face meetings, online support was increasingly being used, corresponding with a moderate drop in in-person attendance at meetings, the study found.

"It did show enough of a migration to online to show that AA face-to-face could be in trouble," said Grant. THE CANADIAN PRESS





Warner Schaettgen, 8, who transitioned to being a girl in Grade 1, and her mother, Melissa. The family recently got an award from Family Services Ottawa for their advocacy work on behalf of transgender youth. JESSICA CUNHA/METROLAND MEDIA

No more hiding for transgender child

JOAN GULLEN AWARD

Girl, family recognized for advocacy work

"Mommy, God made a mistake. I'm really a little girl."

This declaration, spoken by then-two-and-a-half-year-old Warner Schaettgen, has led her West Carleton family on a journey of self-discovery and prompted advocacy work for Schaettgen and others who are transgender, gender creative and gender fluid.

Alongside Stittsville's Lowthian-Rickert family, the Schaettgen family was recently presented with a Joan Gullen Award from Family Services Ottawa. That came "as a complete shock," said Warner's mother, Melissa.

The award recognizes their activism to help create a support and social group where transgender children, and their parents, can make friends and connections and find resources.

The Schaettgens have also been instrumental in helping St. Michael School in Corkery and the Catholic school board create gender-inclusive policies.

The Schaettgens never set out to be the face of transgender rights, said Melissa, but the family realized the importance of speaking out to ensure they — and families like theirs — are heard.

The fear of social rejection and bullying kept the Schaettgens quiet for six years. "Most families live in constant fear, constant fear and in hiding and don't even fathom the idea of coming out and letting their children live free and openly," she said.

This was something the West Carleton family — which includes Warner's father Elmar, twin brother Emery, and older brothers RJ and Bradly — learned firsthand in August 2013 when Warner transitioned in Grade 1 and the family came out of hiding.

> **She knows who she is.**
> Melissa Schaettgen, mother of Warner

Warner is like any other eight-year-old — bright and curious and full of energy.

When Warner told her parents she was a girl they didn't, at first, accept it. They contacted their family doctor and were directed to the Diversity Clinic for Children and Youth at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

The doctors all told them the same thing: "Listen to your child."

"We couldn't listen though. We were so closed-minded we couldn't listen," said Melissa. She bought Warner a dress and let her wear it around the house but never in public.

Everything changed just before Warner was to start Grade 1. It was time for back-to-school clothes shopping and haircuts. It was the moment real fear set in.

"She freaked and said, 'I would rather die than have to look like a boy.' You're talking about a five-year-old child saying that to you," said Melissa.

The family went back to CHEO. Melissa said they were told the same thing by medical professionals: "Listen to your child. If you want to see your child survive to their teen years — the statistics alone will tell you what to do."

The family listened.

Now loved, accepted and free to be herself, Warner is happy. "My life is awesome," she says.

JESSICA CUNHA/METROLAND MEDIA

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14 whales saved in N.S.

WILDLIFE RESCUE

Second mass stranding in two days ends in triumph

Another group of beached whales in Nova Scotia has been helped back out to sea, marking the second time this week that concerned residents joined together to save a stranded pod.

"They're still in shallow-ish water, but we're hoping that they will eventually sort of continue their way out," said Tonya Wimmer, president of the Marine Animal Response Society.

The group joined Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the local fire department and residents Wednesday night after 14 pilot whales were beached off Bayfield, near the northern Nova Scotia community of Antigonish.

The rescuers pushed the whales back into the water, but the pod remained nearby and became stuck again shortly after 6 a.m. Thursday, Wimmer said.

"It was a bit of race against time, because the tide was actually just going out, and it's an extremely shallow bay," she said.

"Once the tide was out, they were really going to be high and dry."

After about two hours of work the assembled crews were able to successfully refloat all 14 whales, including at least three that were significantly smaller than the others — likely young calves.

"The hard part ... is that this whole area is very well known in the summertime to be filled with pilot whales," Wimmer said, adding that their feeding habits make them one of the whale species that get stranded with some regularity.

"This is the normal area for them to be. It's normal for them to even be coastal," she said.

"But it's a little strange to have had two mass strandings in the past two days."

On Tuesday a group of 16 to 19 whales were stranded in a small cove near Judique in Cape Breton. Despite efforts by rescue crews, eight of those whales died.

Wimmer said there's a possibility some of the whales saved Thursday were the same as those in Judique, but it's more likely this was a different group. She said there had already been sightings of whales milling off Bayfield when the Judique stranding was underway.

The cause of either stranding is unknown. Wimmer said one whale may have been sick and led the others astray, or the whales could have simply misjudged the tides.

Wimmer credited the people on hand with Thursday's successful rescue.

"It's a pretty emotional thing to be involved in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Residents attempt to help beached whales that became stuck on the shores of St. George's Bay in Judique, N.S., earlier this week. LINDEN MACINTYRE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS.

> **"It's a pretty emotional thing to be involved in."**
> Tonya Wimmer

IN BRIEF

Life expectancy increases for HIV-positive Canadians

A new study provides more evidence that an HIV diagnosis is no longer the all-but-certain death sentence of years past.

Researchers say the overall life expectancy of Canadians undergoing antiretroviral treatment for the AIDS-causing virus has climbed to 65 years.

The study also reinforces the effectiveness of starting treatment early.

Dr. Julio Montaner, director of the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, says treatment not only improves the health of people living with HIV, but also reduces its transmission.

The study's principal investigator, Dr. Robert Hogg, adds that treatment providers must nonetheless remain vigilant in ensuring therapy reaches everyone, particularly vulnerable groups such as injection drug users.

The study shows that life expectancy increased less for women, injection drug users and people with First Nations ancestry.

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Mulcair loses debate

ELECTION 2015

NDP boss disappoints as federal leaders face off



Steve Rennie
Metro | Ottawa

There were no knockout blows, no "You had an option, sir!" moments.

The first — and perhaps only — debate of this marathon federal election campaign to feature all of the major party leaders may not have had a clear winner, but arguably Tom Mulcair came out as the weakest performer when the NDP leader needed a strong performance the most. And that left the real debate, at least in the early stages, between Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

Here's my view of who owned each of the issues that arose over the course of the two-hour televised debate.

The Economy

Who excelled: Trudeau

Why: He went on the attack early and had Harper on his heels. He made the debate about him and Harper, while excluding Mulcair.

The Environment and Energy

Who excelled: Debate moderator Paul Wells of Maclean's

Why: He put Harper on his heels better than any of the party leaders by pointing out that the prime minister has been promising emissions regulations since 2008.

Democracy

Who excelled: A toss-up between Trudeau and Mulcair

Why: Trudeau scored when he responded "nine... nine Supreme Court justices" when asked by Mulcair what his acceptable per cent would be for a Yes side win in a referendum on Quebec's sovereignty. Mulcair was strong in going after Harper on the Senate.



Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, Green Party leader Elizabeth May and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair listen as Conservative Leader Stephen Harper speaks during the first federal leaders debate, Thursday, in Toronto. POOL/FRANK GUNN/GETTY IMAGES

Foreign Policy and Security

Who excelled: Harper

Why: He kept the focus on ISIL — and managed to pivot away from talk of veterans, where he was vulnerable — in a subject area he probably relished talking about nearly as much as the economy.

Each leader went into the debate with a specific objective. Harper had to convince voters that his Conservatives are the only political party that can keep the economy on track and keep Canadians safe from whatever threats might be out there.

Mulcair had to introduce himself to Canadians and come off as the prime minister-in-waiting. He had to convince voters — some of whom might never have dreamed of voting for the NDP — that his party is the only one that has a shot at ousting the Conservatives from power.

Trudeau has to show people that he is not the lightweight that the Conservatives and NDP have made him out to be. He had to appear as different from Harper and Mulcair as he possibly could — a cheerful, optimistic antithesis to their rough-and-tumble politics.

Elizabeth May had to convince people that a vote for the Greens is not a wasted vote, and that her party could wind up holding the balance of power in a minority government.

Stephen Harper: B+

He took a number of body blows but stayed on his feet. He benefited from the final round being on security and foreign affairs.

Justin Trudeau: A-

He succeeded early on in making the debate between him and Harper. He had a strong first round. Probably exceeded expectations.

Tom Mulcair: B

He looked uncomfortable and a bit wooden at times and found himself on the outside looking in as Trudeau and Harper scrapped early on.

Elizabeth May: A

It's an easy A to give out. May went into the debate with little to lose. She was likeable and articulate. Came across as the conscience of the debate.

> **The way you deal with this is by sticking with a plan that is working.**
> Stephen Harper

> **Honestly, Mr. Harper's plan simply isn't working. We know that.**
> Thomas Mulcair

> **The only risk right now would be sticking with what has been a failed plan.**
> Justin Trudeau

> **I don't really think he's got a good track record on spotting when this country is in recession.**
> Elizabeth May

Go online for election news metronews.ca

AMERICA VOTES

Trump the main attraction at first Republican clash

The Republicans set in motion a key ritual of the American political process Thursday, with billionaire businessman Donald Trump using the opening moments of the party's first debate of the 2016 presidential campaign to refuse to rule out running as an independent.

At centre stage, the Republican frontrunner was the only one of 10 candidates to raise his hand when the Fox News hosts asked if anyone onstage would not pledge to support the eventual party nominee.

"I will not make the pledge at this time," Trump said.

That enraged Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who said Trump was "already hedging his bets because he's used to buying politicians."

Trump had already loomed over the events Thursday night. During an earlier event for candidates relegated to a discussion outside of prime time, Trump took shots for his past positions in favour of universal health care and abortion rights.

Trump remains a long-shot candidate to replace President Barack Obama, but the brash real-estate mogul and reality-television star took centre stage in Cleveland, Ohio, as top performer in several recent national polls. Only 10 candidates were invited to participate in the main event, with the remaining seven relegated to a pre-debate forum.

It's a key test for Trump, whose unpredictable style and unformed policy positions mean he doesn't fit neatly into any single wing of the Republican Party.

That appears to be a draw to some Republicans frustrated with Washington and career politicians, but others fear his eccentricities and outlandish comments — whether about Mexican immigrants being "criminals" and "rapists" or his questioning of the war record of Sen. John McCain — will taint the American public's view of the party.

As in the 2012 Republican primaries, the party faces a tug-of-war between those eager for a candidate with broad general election appeal and those who think the key to winning is nominating a fiery conservative.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump looks at Jeb Bush, right, as Scott Walker watches during the first Republican presidential debate at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland on Thursday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fentanyl-linked deaths spike

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Gangs moving opioid have left trail of fatal overdoses

The powerful opioid fentanyl, recently linked to an outbreak of overdose deaths in Western Canada, appears to be flowing along a well-worn drug trafficking route — killing some of its users in the same way tainted ecstasy did before.

Authorities theorize the potent painkiller is being imported from Asia to the West Coast, then moved to the black market in B.C. and Alberta by organized crime groups.

Policing has largely centred around public warnings and education campaigns to prevent overdoses, while investigations are at such an early stage that officers haven't yet uncovered any pill manufacturing operations.

It's a pattern reminiscent of early 2012, when investigators were probing the source of batches of ecstasy mixed with an unknown, lethal additive as deaths stacked up.

"I think there is something of a trade route, and it's one we saw in place at the time of ecstasy-lacing," said Simon Fraser University criminologist Rob Gordon.

Fentanyl produces a euphoric high and pain relief, while overdosing can cause blood pressure to plummet, slowed breathing, deep sleep, coma or death.

A couple in their early 30s died in their North Vancouver home on July 20, while a 17-year-old boy and 31-year-old man each died separately last weekend.

It's believed the victims either thought they were taking OxyContin, or using illegal drugs spiked with the fentanyl, said Jane Buxton, at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

More than 500 people have died under similar circumstances across B.C. and Alberta since 2013, with a spike in the past year.

Mike Tucker said that opened a void that crime bosses began exploiting, by selling fentanyl as fake OxyContin or heroin — yet it's up to 100 times more toxic than morphine.

The drug's appearance is new enough that investigators are still digging to reach the root of distribution channels, said Tucker.

"I would guess that most of the fentanyl we're seeing is coming from British Columbia, and that could be a stop on a shipping route or something," said Tucker. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Police say organized crime groups have been sending fentanyl through British Columbia to Alberta and Saskatchewan. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS

ON THE MOVE

Alberta police track smugglers cross-country

In March, Alberta Law Enforcement Teams (ALERT) warned fentanyl was being shipped from Alberta to B.C. and Saskatchewan using hidden compartments inside sport utility vehicles.

ALERT seized 18,000 pills in 2014 compared with no seizures the year earlier.

Some busts have revealed possible cross-provincial networks of operations.

The RCMP is co-ordinating investigations at a national level.

4

Over the past two weeks, police in Metro Vancouver have linked four overdose deaths to fentanyl.

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Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai speaks during a news conference on the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Probe upsets Flight 370 families

MALAYSIA AIRLINES

Australia, France unable to confirm wing flap origin

The Malaysian government was certain: The airplane part found on an Indian Ocean island came from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Investigators in France weren't so sure quite yet.

And those differing approaches created confusion and anguish Thursday for the families of those aboard the ill-fated flight.

"From our first observation, the colour tone and all maintenance records that we have, we know," Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said. "Our records show that it's the same as MH370."

He added that there are "many other technical details that I do not have to reveal" that confirm the part is from Flight 370.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak announced early Thursday that the piece of debris, known as a flaperon, came from the doomed aircraft, but authorities in France, the U.S. and Australia have stopped short of full confirmation.

The dissonant comments infuriated many relatives of the 239 people on board the plane, who have waited more than 500 days for concrete clues into the fate of their loved ones. Dai Shuqin, the sister of a passenger, was among about a dozen Chinese relatives who held a demonstration outside Malaysia Airlines' offices in Beijing.

"France is being cautious about it, but Malaysia is desperate to put an end to this case and run away from all responsibilities," she said.

Liow said differences with other countries amounted to "a choice of words."

He also said more debris has been found on Reunion Island and was sent to local authorities for French investigators to examine. However, the Paris prosecutor's office, which is spearheading a French legal inquiry into the crash, denied that investigators had any new debris, and multiple French officials involved in the investigation in Reunion and in Paris said they also were unaware of a new discovery.

The officials requested anonymity, because they did not want to appear critical of the Malaysian investigation, but those contradictory statements about new debris threw more confusion over an investigation that has often seemed inconsistent, to the dismay of families of those lost.

"Why the hell do you have one confirm and one not?" said Sara Weeks, the sister of New Zealander Paul Weeks, who was on board. "Why not wait and get everybody on the same page so the families don't need to go through this turmoil?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE

Evacuees hope to find homes standing

Several hundred of the thousands of people driven from their homes by a massive Northern California wildfire began to trickle back to their neighbourhoods Thursday, and some saw what they most feared: nothing.

"All of it is gone. It's so surreal," Layna Rivas said through tears just after she discovered her home in Clearlake Oaks had burned to the ground. "It looked like a bomb went off everywhere. It's all black."

Rivas had eight chickens when she left but found only one walking through the rubble.

Forty-three homes were destroyed and 13,000 people were ordered or warned to evacuate as the blaze chewed through nearly 109 square miles of dry brush.

About 800 evacuees were allowed to return home Thursday, and the number could increase in the next 24 hours as firefighting operations wind down.

"We have crews coming in and out of those tiny roadways," state fire spokeswoman Blanca Mercado said. "It's not just the fire, there's still a lot of things behind the scenes logistically.

Residents were anxious to check on their pets and possessions, but many were stuck camping in cars and trailers, drinking coffee from Styrofoam cups and hoping their houses had not been reduced to ash.

Cassandra Raffaelli and others were staying in the parking lot at a Moose Lodge, a fraternal organization that was serving food to evacuees.

She had been there since Sunday and doesn't know what she will find when she returns home to Spring Valley, a town in a parched rural area 100 miles north of San Francisco.

"To go home, to go to your house, see it (burned) and stuff, that's my major fear," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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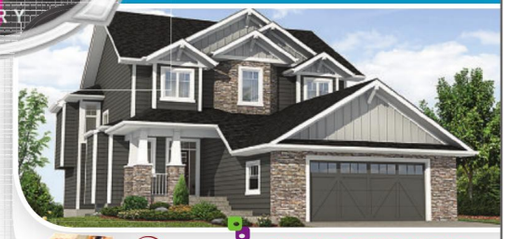
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70 years beyond the horror

HIROSHIMA

Mayor Matsui calls for end to all nuclear weapons

Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Thursday, with Mayor Kazumi Matsui renewing calls for U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders to step up efforts toward making a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Tens of thousands of people stood for a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m. at a ceremony in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicentre of the 1945 attack, marking the moment of the blast. Then dozens of doves were released as a symbol of peace.

The U.S. bomb, Little Boy, the first nuclear weapon used in war, killed 140,000 people. A second bomb, Fat Man, dropped over Nagasaki three days later and killed another 70,000, prompting Japan's surrender in the Second World War.

The U.S. dropped the bombs to avoid what would have been a bloody ground assault on the Japanese mainland, following the fierce battle for Japan's southernmost Okinawan islands, which took 12,520 American lives and an estimated 200,000 Japanese — about half civilians.



A boy offers prayer after releasing a paper lantern into the Motoyasu River in Hiroshima, western Japan, on Thursday. The day commemorated the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matsui called nuclear weapons "the absolute evil and ultimate inhumanity" that must be abolished, and criticized nuclear powers for keeping them as threats to achieve their national interests. He said the world till bristles with more than 15,000 nuclear weapons.

He renewed an invitation to world leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the scars themselves, during the G7 summit in Japan next year.

"President Obama and other policymakers, please come to the A-bombed cities, hear the *hibakusha* (surviving victims) with your own ears, and encounter the reality of the atomic bombings," he said. "Surely, you will be impelled to start discussing a legal framework, including a nuclear weapons convention."

The anniversary comes as Japan is divided over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to pass unpopular legislation to expand the country's military role internationally, a year after his Cabinet's decision to loosen Japan's war-renouncing constitution by adopting a new interpretation of it.

"We must establish a broad national security framework that does not rely on use of force but is based on trust," Matsui said. He urged the Japanese government to stick with "the pacifism of the Japanese Constitution" to lead the global effort of no proliferation.

Abe, also addressing the ceremony, said that as the sole country to face a nuclear attack, Japan had a duty to push for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He pledged to promote the cause through international conferences to be held in Hiroshima later this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUROPEAN UNION

Poland's new leader sworn in

Conservative Andrzej Duda was sworn in as Poland's new president Thursday, bringing political change to the nation's top office.

In his inauguration speech, Duda, 43, now the supreme commander of Poland's armed forces, said his chief concern was for the nation's security in the face of a resurgent Russia.

"We need a greater presence of NATO in this part of Europe and in our country," Duda said.

He vowed to press for more security guarantees at next year's NATO summit in Warsaw.

Within the European Union, he said Poland needs to speak with more authority about its goals and needs in order to make them clearer to political partners.

The powers of Poland's president are limited to approving or rejecting legislation and proposing new laws. He formally represents Poland in the international arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Terror strikes Saudi mosque



An Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militant holds the group's flag as he stands on a tank they captured from Syrian government forces, in the town of Qaryatain. ISIL on Thursday seized this key town in central Syria following heavy clashes with President Bashar Assad's forces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABHA

New ISIL affiliate claims responsibilty for bombing

An allegedly new Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant affiliate in Saudi Arabia claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a mosque inside a police compound in the country's southwest on Thursday that killed at least 17 people, most of them members and recruits of the kingdom's special forces.

It was the deadliest attack against Saudi security personnel in years and one that is likely to pull the kingdom deeper into the regional war with ISIL extremists.

The blast took place in an Interior Ministry compound in the city of Abha, the provincial capital of Asir, which lies along the border with war-torn Yemen. The troops killed were members of an elite counter-terrorism force.

The attack was stunning in its timing and target, coming just weeks after the Saudi Interior Ministry announced the arrest of more than 400 suspects in an anti-terrorism sweep. In April, they announced the arrest of more than 90 suspects.

The kingdom had for years quietly allowed thousands of Saudis to leave the country to join militant groups fighting in Iraq and Syria, until the late King Abdullah last year decreed that fighting abroad was illegal. At the same time, Saudi Arabia joined a U.S.-led coalition carrying out airstrikes in Syria and Iraq against ISIL.

The kingdom is also leading a coalition targeting Yemen's Iran-allied Shiite rebels who have carried out a number of cross-border attacks against Saudi military targets.

Hours after Thursday's bombing in Abha, a previously unheard of ISIL affiliate, which calls itself Hijaz Province of the Islamic State, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The group issued a statement saying an ISIL suicide bomber targeted a "monument of the apostate," referring to the special forces' compound in Abha. It described the kingdom's ruling family as "tyrants" who have aligned themselves with "their Crusader masters," or Western allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Recent targeted attacks

Before Thursday's attack, at least 40 Saudi civilians and security personnel were killed in various ISIL extremist attacks since November.

Najd Province has carried out drive-by shootings and claimed responsibility for Kuwait's deadliest terrorist attack, which killed 27 Shiite worshippers in June.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Alaskan walruses dwindle: Hunters

Anna Oxereok grew up eating walrus in the western Alaska village of Wales. Today it's such a rare treat she can't bring herself to part with the plastic bag of meat in her freezer.

"I have to save it for something special," she said.

It's become increasingly difficult to land a walrus. Remote communities at the edge of the Bering Sea are seeing a steep decline in walrus harvested the past several years as temperatures warm and the ocean ice used by the animals to dive and rest recedes farther north.

Walrus, described by some as having a taste between veal and beef, is highly prized by Alaska Natives as a subsistence food to store for winter. The sale of carved ivory from the tusks, legal only for Alaska Natives, also brings in supplemental income to communities with high unemployment rates. Hunters and scientists say walrus migration patterns are veering from historical hunting grounds.

"A decline in the subsistence harvest really creates an economic disaster that threatens the health and welfare of the people in the communities," said Vera Metcalf, director of the Eskimo Walrus Commission. "So we are concerned about the impacts of climate change and the ability for our hunters to harvest marine mammals."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Theatre assailant killed

POLICE SHOOTING

Man with axe, pellet gun shot and killed after SWAT standoff

What initially appeared to be another mass shooting at a U.S. movie theatre ended up being an attack by a disturbed homeless man who wasn't armed with a real gun and was eventually shot and killed by police.

Vincente David Montano, 29, bought a ticket for a popular action film at a theatre in Nashville, Tennessee, on Wednesday and entered with pepper spray, an airsoft pellet gun and an axe, Metro Nashville Police spokesman Don Aaron said.

Some of the theatregoers in the audience ran outside and alerted police officers who had responded to a vehicle crash nearby, police said in a news release. South Precinct Officer Jonathan Frith was the first officer to encounter Montano, the news release said.

Montano pointed his pellet gun at Frith and pulled the trigger, prompting Frith to fire one round from his patrol rifle in self-defence, the release said. Frith then backed out of the theatre while keeping Montano contained inside as an elite police unit, SWAT, responded.

> **This individual has had significant psychiatric or psychological issues.**
> Don Aaron, Metro Nashville Police spokesman

At that point, Montano began to use the pepper spray and officers said they encountered a cloud of it as they entered to take Montano into custody. Montano fired his pellet gun again and four SWAT members fired back, the release said. Montano attempted to flee out the rear door of the theatre and as he emerged with axe in hand and started toward officers, five opened fire, according to the release. Montano was struck and killed.

No one other than Montano was killed. One man was cut on the shoulder, evidently by the axe Montano was carrying, and that man, his wife and daughter were treated for pepper spray, Aaron said.

Aaron said police had not uncovered a motive, but he said Montano had been committed for psychiatric treatment at least four times over the past decade.

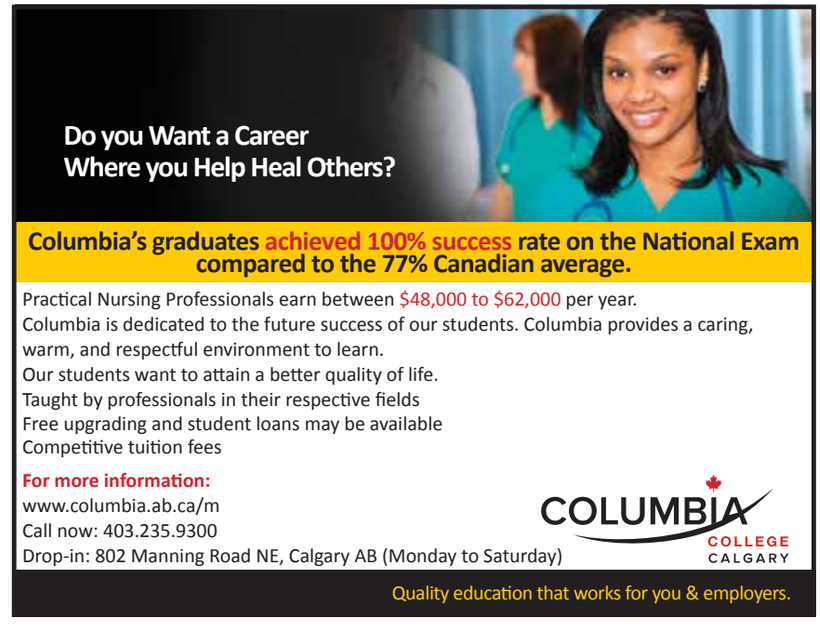
"This individual has had significant psychiatric or psychological issues," Aaron said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NATURAL DISASTERS PAKISTAN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY A worker in a Pakistan army helicopter drops a bag of relief to villagers stranded in floodwater in Rajanpur, Pakistan. Torrential rains and flash floods have hit various villages and cities across the country. ASIM TANVEER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







Eat Russian Food movement members check items at a grocery store in Moscow. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food ban continues

RUSSIA

Citizens protest government's wasteful display

The Russian government steamrollered tons of contraband cheese and destroyed fruit with tractors Thursday in a public display of its commitment to its one-year-old ban on Western foods.

The move has raised protests, with people signing a petition urging the government to instead donate the food to the poor suffering through the country's vicious recession.

Coupled with the ruble's sharp depreciation, the ban on Western food has helped drive consumer prices up, punishing an increasing number of Russians below the poverty line.

The Kremlin, hoping to stem the flow of banned products by raising the costs for those involved in contraband, has ignored the public outcry. President Vladimir Putin's order to destroy the food underlines the Kremlin's determination to enforce the ban amid continuing tensions with Europe and the U.S. over the Ukrainian crisis.

Russia slapped a ban on many Western agricultural products, including meat, milk products, vegetables and fruit on Aug. 6, 2014 in retaliation to the U.S. and EU sanctions over Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russian insurgents in Ukraine. Last month, the Kremlin extended the ban for a year following the EU's decision to prolong its sanctions through January.

Russian importers found loopholes to bypass the ban. Neighbouring Belarus has become a major conduit for the banned items, making food out of European meat and other products, or simply repackaging banned European food to change the country of origin.

> **We are grateful for (the sanctions), because maybe they will shake up businessmen and shake us to the roots and we will start doing it ourselves.**
> John Kopiski, farmer

Whisking products into Russia on fake documents has also reportedly taken place. Some smugglers provide documents purporting that a shipment of European food from Belarus is bound for Kazakhstan, another member of a free trade pact with Russia, while in truth it's intended for Russia.

Defending the ban, Putin said it helped create incentives for local agricultural producers.

Experts warn, however, that while some local farmers thrived, it would take years for Russia to reach self-sufficiency on food and prices will rise, hurting the population. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST AFRICA

Ebola under control in Sierra Leone with just four known cases on record

Sierra Leone has only four recorded cases of Ebola, the West African nation's head of Ebola said Thursday, adding that he is hopeful the countdown to zero can soon begin.

Two of the cases have proven negative after treatments, and the other two, in the north Tonkolili district, are in treatment, said National Emergency Response Center chief Alfred Palo Conteh.

The Tonkolili district remains a worry, he said. Authorities last week quarantined 500 people after a man died from Ebola. The victim contracted the disease in the capital, travelled to his home village, and was treated for a fever at the local hospital but authorities didn't call the Ebola emergency number.

He didn't have a burial that followed special procedures required for Ebola victims, and the man's mother and brother contracted the virus.

The district had not had a single case of Ebola in five months.

"This could happen again in any of the silent districts and we must all do what it takes to prevent a recurrence elsewhere," Palo Conteh said.

The World Health Organization said Wednesday nearly 2,000 contacts are being monitored across Guinea and Sierra Leone. It warned that the rainy season in the three countries hit hardest by the Ebola outbreak — Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia — will prove a challenge for slowing the spread of the deadly virus.

This Ebola outbreak has killed more than 11,200 people, mostly in West Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Stolen Stradivarius found

CRIME

Returned violin is music to the Totenberg sisters' ears

Renowned violinist Roman Totenberg left his beloved Stradivarius in his office while greeting well-wishers after a concert in 1980. When he returned, it was gone.

Its case was later found in the basement of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Mass., where he taught. But Totenberg, who died three years ago at age 101, never saw the instrument again.

Totenberg thought he knew who stole the violin, but there was never enough evidence to pursue a suspect.

The trail went cold until this June, when his eldest daughter, Nina Totenberg, got a phone call from an FBI agent.

The agent said he was looking at the violin, which was in federal custody.

"I really could hardly believe it at the time," Nina Totenberg, legal affairs correspondent for NPR, told The Associated Press Wednesday. "I said, 'I have to call my sisters. I'll tell them not to get their hopes up,' but he said, 'You don't have to do that. This is the violin.'"

The violin, known as the Ames Stradivarius, was made in Italy in 1734 by Antonio Stradivari and is one of several hundred Stradivarius instruments known to exist. They can fetch millions of dollars at auction, including a record $15.9 million in 2011.



Sisters Amy Totenberg, left, Nina Totenberg, centre, and Jill Totenberg get their first look at the Ames Stradivarius violin Thursday in New York. The instrument was stolen from their father, renowned violinist Roman Totenberg, 35 years ago. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nina Totenberg said the violin surfaced in June when a woman had it appraised in New York and the appraiser immediately contacted authorities. The woman is the former wife of Philip S. Johnson, who died in California in 2011. She declined to comment to The Associated Press and asked that her name not be published. She has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

According to court documents, the woman voluntarily returned the violin to the Totenberg family and told investigators she did not know it was stolen.

Johnson's obituary described him as "a noted violinist of 40 years" but did not detail where or for whom he played. Totenberg said he was an aspiring violinist seen around her father's office at the time of the theft.

> **"It's like having him come alive again."**
> Jill Totenberg, daughter of Roman

Totenberg said that, lacking evidence, police weren't able to obtain a warrant to search for the Stradivarius.

"There was nothing to be done, and eventually he just moved on and bought another violin and lived the rest of his life," she said.

A child prodigy in his native Poland, Roman Totenberg bought the Stradivarius in 1943 for $15,000 — more than $200,000 in today's dollars — and it was the only instrument he performed with until it was stolen. He kept performing into his 90s and taught at Boston University until he died.

The Ames Stradivarius had wear and tear that indicated it hadn't been professionally maintained, but it was in pretty good shape overall, suggesting it hadn't been played much, Nina Totenberg said.

Prosecutors don't plan to charge anyone in connection with the theft, Totenberg said, and the violin will be returned to the family. They plan to sell it, but not to a collector, she said.

"I'm just glad that the violin, once it's restored to its full potential again, will eventually be in the hands of another great artist," she said, "and its gorgeous voice will be heard in concert halls around the country."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIME

Cosmetic injection blamed for death

Police investigating the death of a woman due to complications from illegal buttocks injections at a suburban St. Louis, Mo. hotel room are trying to determine if her demise can be linked to a similar fatal case months ago in Texas.

Miklos Hurocy, police chief of tiny Edmundson abutting Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, said officers probing Daysha Phillips' death last week are awaiting a medical examiner's report to identify the substance that was injected into the 22-year-old Florissant woman.

That report could come within three weeks.

Phillips had trouble breathing after the procedure July 26 and was rushed to hospital by relatives. Her condition rapidly declined, and she was taken off life support July 30.

Three other women were with her during the injections, Hurocy said. Investigators have not identified two women, both potential suspects, in the Missouri death, the chief said.

In Dallas, Wykesha Reid, 34, died in February from what authorities said was a blocked lung artery linked to illegal silicone injections meant to expand her buttocks. Two salon workers have been charged with murder, but at least one of them was free on bond when the Missouri case surfaced.

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Museum heist still unsolved

BOSTON

Newly released surveillance footage shows mystery visitor



In this image from a surveillance video released Thursday, an intruder walks inside the rear entrance of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM/U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twenty-five years after the famed art heist at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, law-enforcement officials released new surveillance video Thursday showing an unauthorized visitor entering the museum the night before the robbery.

Authorities hope the never-before-seen video will spark leads to help recover the 13 pieces of stolen artwork, worth at least $500 million.

The low-resolution video shows a security guard who seems to hit an intercom button and grant access to a man who can be seen in the museum's reception area at about 12:49 a.m. on March 17, 1990, almost exactly 24 hours before the heist.

The man is also seen getting out of a car matching the general description of one reported to be parked outside the museum minutes before the theft. He uses the same rear entrance as the thieves, according to the office of U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, which released the video.

The stolen artwork includes Vermeer's The Concert and Rembrandt's The Storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Ortiz's office did not immediately respond to questions about why the video footage — captured by museum security cameras — was not released earlier.

In a prepared statement, Ortiz said officials hope the public may be able to help authorities identify the unauthorized visitor or the car.

"With the public's help, we may be able to develop new information that could lead to the recovery of these invaluable works of art," she said.

A $5-million reward has been offered by the museum for information that leads to the recovery of the stolen artwork in good condition.

"We remain committed to one goal: the return of all 13 works to their rightful place, which is here at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum," said Anthony Amore, director of security.

Authorities have repeatedly said that on March 18, 1990, two white men dressed in Boston police uniforms gained entrance to the museum by telling the security guard at the watch desk that they were responding to a report of a disturbance.

Against museum policy, the guard allowed the men into the museum. The thieves handcuffed the museum's two guards on duty and put them in separate areas of the museum's basement.

No weapons were seen during the robbery, and no panic button was activated. The video surveillance footage from the night of the robbery was taken by the thieves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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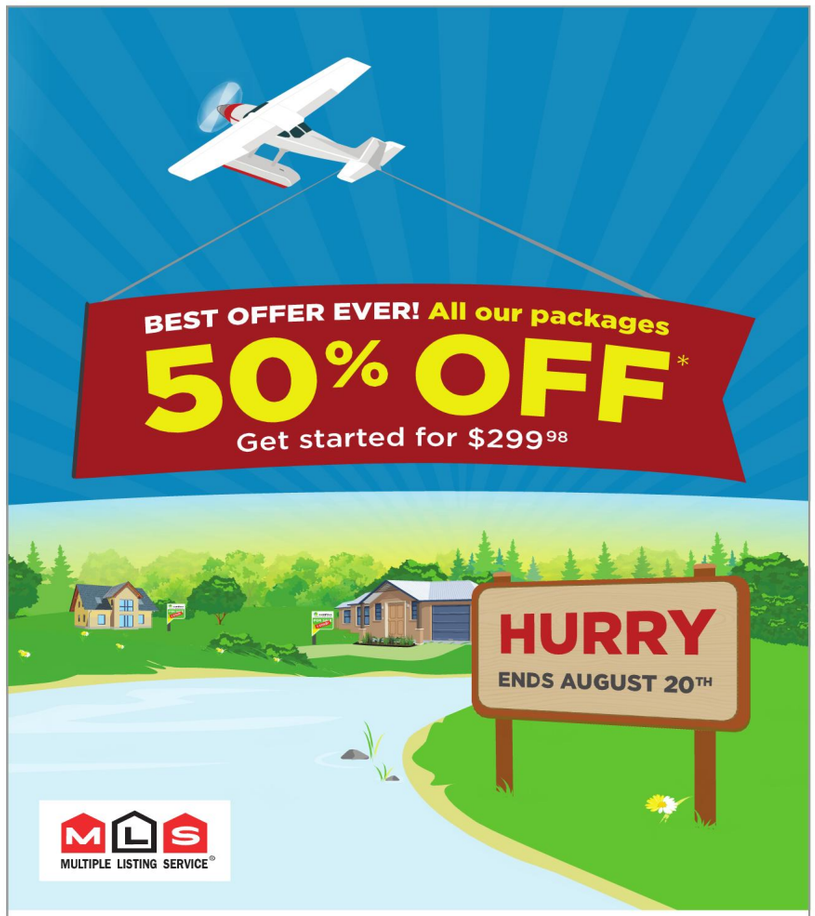
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Wireless subscribers boost BCE's profit

Changes in the rules for wireless contracts gave BCE Inc. a bump in new subscribers and helped raise profits by 25 per cent in the second quarter.

The Montreal-based telecommunications company said Thursday that net income was $759 million or 90 cents per share, compared to $606 million or 78 cents a year ago.

The big increase was attributed to a number of other factors as well, including taking full ownership of Bell Aliant last year and gains from the sale of a 50 per cent interest in the Glentel retail business to Rogers Communications.

But it was the addition of 61,000 net postpaid subscribers in the period that stood out as a victory against one of its biggest competitors, Rogers Communications, which managed to deliver just over a third of that growth, or 24,000 customers, in the same period.

Both carriers have been in fierce competition, along with Telus, to retain their wireless customers after the CRTC issued rule changes that eliminate cancellation fees for wireless contracts after two years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Israel buying locomotives from Bombardier

Bombardier has won a contract from Israel Railways for 62 electric locomotives valued at $260 million US, the railway said Thursday. It was selected over several international rivals including Alstom and Chinese bidders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 76.29¢ (+0.46¢)

TSX 14,405.91 (-97.08)

OIL $44.66 US (-49¢)

GOLD $1,090.10 US (+$4.50)

NATURAL GAS: $2.813 US (+1.5¢)
DOW JONES: 17,419.75 (-120.72)



Business owner Katherina Athanasopoulou, posing at the entrance of her workshop in Athens on Thursday, says export orders to Germany have been cancelled because of payment disruptions caused by capital controls in Greece. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Creditors believe deal possible by deadline

GREECE

Bank stocks recover after disastrous three days

Greece's talks with its creditors on a vital third bailout are making "satisfactory progress," the European Union executive said Thursday in its most upbeat assessment so far, as Athens stocks rebounded three days after their worst plunge in decades.

A European Commission spokeswoman, Mina Andreeva, said the lenders are hoping to finalize the 85-billion euro ($92.5 billion US) agreement in time for a major Greek debt repayment in two weeks.

"We believe this is an ambitious yet possible timetable," she said. "Our teams (have been) on the ground (for) almost two weeks, and they report satisfactory progress."

The radical left government on Wednesday said Athens was hoping to avoid extending negotiations and having to seek an interim loan to cover the Aug. 20 payment, worth more than 3 billion euros ($3.27 billion US) to the European Central Bank.

Greece has already received nearly 240 billion euros in rescue loans since it was drummed out of international markets in 2010. But although it tamed budget deficits through severe spending and income cuts, tax hikes and market reforms, the country still requires a third bailout.

> **We believe this is an ambitious yet possible timetable.**
> Mina Andreeva, EC spokeswoman

The terms of the new loan are being worked out in Athens in talks between government officials and lead negotiators from the European Commission, ECB and International Monetary Fund.

The Athens stock exchange gained 3.65 per cent Thursday, three days after its disastrous opening — when a sixth of listed companies' value went up in smoke — following a forced five-week closure. Banks, which saw huge losses over the past three days, gained a collective 18 per cent.

But state budget execution figures released Thursday showed that last year's modest primary surplus — which excludes debt costs — has been all but wiped out in the first half of 2015. The January-June surplus was 238 million euros, compared to 1.8 billion a year earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Permanent Guardianship Order To
Lane Bohning

Take notice that on the **26th day of August 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **May 21, 2015.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Permanent Guardianship Order To
Crystal Rowett

Take notice that on the **2nd day of September 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 302, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **May 20, 2015**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Permanent Guardianship Order To
Justin Urban

Take notice that on the **2nd day of September 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #302, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **May 20, 2015.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Permanent Guardianship Order To
Marten Reimer

Take notice that on the **19th day of August 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **June 3, 2015**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, August 7-9, 2015

THE KOHLER REPORT: ON — OH, THERE'S AN ELECTION?



Imagine the NDP wins?! All roads will be replaced by giant, tulip-lined bike lanes

You know how dreams are weird and hard to explain to other people? How when you say to someone, "You were there, but you weren't you. You were a hobbit and we were having root beer floats with Gandalf" they start to slowly back away?

Well, the other day I was talking about Canadian politics and I noticed it sounded an awful lot like I was describing a dream. I realized that I had only tidbits of information that I'd gleaned from Facebook, radio, headlines (which I don't click on) and maybe my dad.

Am I alone here?

The scary thing is, I know some of my friends consider me "informed." Let's compromise and say I'm your average Canadian. Please read on to find out the average Canadian's take on #CanPoli.

Harper and his "people" recently passed a bill called C-51; it's a bill that means if I say bad things about the government, I can be arrested. I think it might be racist, too, but I'm not sure. People were really angry about the bill on Facebook, almost as angry as they were about Cecil the lion. Justin Trudeau was in favour of the evil bill but Thomas Mulcair, leader of the NDP (see, I'm informed), opposed it and that made him a bearded hero.

Now there's an election starting and I hear it's going to be long and expensive, like a wedding weekend for a friend you don't really care about. But what's really crazy is that Mulcair is leading in the polls.

I may not know a lot but I know that the idea of a Canada led by the NDP is up there with pigs flying in a frozen hell. Oddly, even though it's Mulcair who Harper should be most concerned about, the only attack ads I've heard have been aimed at "Justin" and how he's a pot-smoking teenager with great hair who still needs to go through puberty. Did you know that Trudeau's dad was a famous Prime Minister? His name was Pierre and it's kind of a God/Jesus thing — if Jesus had turned out to be a disappointment.

Harper also put an ad online about how he's against the Netflix tax. The ad felt like something you'd see during a high-school election for co-prez but with lesser production value (I was disappointed he didn't promise free fruit punch in the caf at lunchtime).

I'm not sure when we actually vote, but I'll find out when I get that election card in my mailbox. I'll vote NDP because I think I agree mostly with their policies (Netflix tax aside). Imagine the NDP wins?! All roads will be replaced by giant, tulip-lined bike lanes. Everyone will get a free live-in nanny. Prescription drugs will be included in our health care and Gay Pride will be made a national holiday!

Then the country will declare bankruptcy.

Maybe Canadian politics are less a dream, more an acid trip? Either way, I hope you all learned something here today!

Take that, Chantal Hébert.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler.

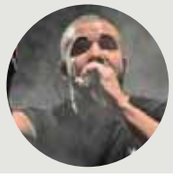
Happy face/Sad face

From **generous brides** to **egregious grooms,**
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Mill-Drake beef a cash cow for biz?

Companies have taken it u-pun themselves to milk the beef between Meek Mill and Drake. Burger King tweeted a pic of their Whopper with "All these burgers and they still got beef." Texas's Whataburger wrote "Meek Mill take it from us — if you gonna serve beef serve it high quality." Even Rosetta Stone jabbed "We might not be able to translate the latest #MeekMill soundtrack, but we can help you learn languages most ppl speak." The corporate consensus seemed to be that Meek was weak, and their responses were well done.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





In sickness and in health of 4,000 refugees

Oh, weddings. All that fretting about the guest list. Do you invite coworkers? Parents' friends? 4,000 Syrian refugees? If you're Turkish couple Fethullah Üzümcüoğlu and Esra Polat, you do just that. The pair opted on their wedding day to put the money towards feeding refugees in the nearby border town of Kilis, which hosts 123,000 Syrians. The charity Kimse Yok Mu tweeted photos of the couple in full bridal outfits helping to serve up meals. SOURCE: THE DAILY BEAST

#ilooklikean engineer – duh

It started with a woman on a San Francisco recruitment ad talking about her job. Much reaction followed, the reasons for which are confusing to normal humans. Isis Wenger is a female, an engineer, and attractive — a combo that proved suspicious for some. Anyway, negative comments inspired a viral hashtag (naturally) with thousands of women tweeting their photos with their engineering roles. IWenger said she hoped to help eliminate "subconscious bias" in tech.

SOURCE: TECHCRUNCH





Honeymoon groom no honey next day

Ladies, let this be a lesson to you: Let your partner see you at your worst. Or, you know, without makeup. Alternate lesson: Don't agree to marry a jerk. An Algerian groom took his wife to court the day after marrying, seeking $20,000 in damages for "psychological suffering." The crime? He did not recognize her the next morning without her full makeup and claims he was frightened and thought her a thief who came to steal his apartment.

SOURCE: EMIRATES 24/7



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

What you don't know about fentanyl can kill you: It's time to learn

We need to do something about street drugs.

In just the latest death, 17-year-old Jack Bodie died in Vancouver last weekend after snorting fentanyl. The drug is linked to 75 deaths in B.C. in 2014, mostly recreational users, according to the B.C. Coroners Service.

Days later, his dad spoke to CBC Radio.

"I can't say don't do drugs. That's a false start, and we know that from trying to fight the war on drugs," he said. But, he continued, the casual use of fentanyl is seen as no riskier than having a beer.

Fentanyl is unusually deadly, but street drugs in general pose a dilemma for invincible-feeling teens and 20-somethings, because getting high feels fantastic, and most people don't die from it.

"There's always risk," said a longtime dealer I know, one trusted by his friends to provide a safe high.

He knows his wholesalers well. He tests his drugs to confirm what he's got. He takes marijuana to a special site to test for mould, E. coli and other toxins. It's not a perfect system, but it helps, he said.

"If you don't have that, then you're forced into a dark market that is unregulated, uncontrolled, patrolled by piranhas and devious people."

Some don't care what they sell you and whether it's dangerous.

"Any good chemist can make his pills look like anything these days," the dealer added.

Drug-testing kits are one defence. They could be handed out at walk-in clinics, he suggested, mirroring the harm-reduction tactics of Vancouver's safe-injection site. There could be drug-testing sites at pill-fuelled festivals, equipped with information on drug effects and risks.

Education, he said, is key.

Doctors have said most overdoses at Nova Scotia's Evolve Festival result from a cocktail of drugs, making testing kits a moot point. But what if we knew more about the effects of mixing drugs?

The dealer suggested parents sit down with their kids to explain how street drugs affect the body, for good or ill. And, maybe, that they even offer a safe space to experiment, the way some parents let their teenagers drink booze at home.

B.C. police forces, health authorities and the B.C. Coroners Service agree the public needs the information: They've launched the website knowyoursource.ca. It explains fentanyl, overdoses and how to lower your risk if you decide you use it.

One thing should be very clear to us all by now: What you don't know can kill you. And we know far too little.

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Ooh la la: Christian Louboutin to launch line of lipsticks

Stop-motion studio's fab four

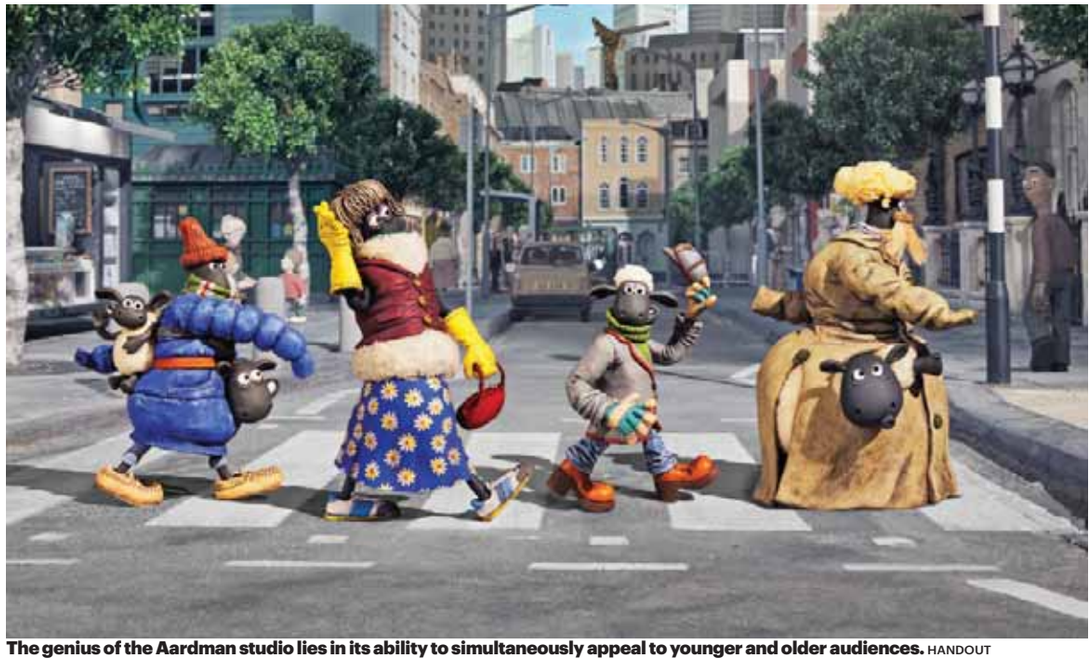
ANIMATION

Shaun the Sheep only latest triumph by Aardman

IN FOCUS



Richard Crouse



The genius of the Aardman studio lies in its ability to simultaneously appeal to younger and older audiences. HANDOUT

Kids' movies come in all shapes and sizes. This year there's been the introspection and action adventure of Inside Out, Minions mayhem and Paddington's cuddly cuteness. For something completely different, there's the Shaun the Sheep Movie, a stop-motion animated film with virtually no dialogue but lots of fun.

Shaun is a resourceful, if mischievous, sheep who lives with his flock at Mossy Bottom Farm. When he accidentally sets off a chain of events that sees his Farmer get amnesia and become a successful hairdresser in the big city, Shaun tries to bring him back home. Wallace and Gromit fans may recognize Shaun the Sheep from the 1995 short film A Close Shave or his self-titled television series.

Animation fans will also recognize the unmistakable style of Aardman, the British animation studio responsible for bringing the Plasticine inventor Wallace and his dog Gromit to vivid life one frame at a time. Time called their Claymation promo clip for Peter Gabriel's Sledgehammer one of the greatest music videos ever and their first full length film, 2000's Chicken Run, is the highest-grossing stop-motion film of all time.

The beauty of their work is that while it's generally aimed at kids it tickles funny bones young and old. What's the secret to their success?

"We don't make animated films," says founder Peter Lord. "We make films that happen to be animated."

Here's a look at my favourite Aardman films.

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

The story takes place days before the annual Giant Vegetable Competition. Wallace and Gromit's pest control company — Anti-Pesto — must do battle with a floppy-eared mutant rabbit who is nibbling on all the oversized vegetables.

The film is loaded with fanciful Rube Goldberg-like contraptions, visual gags, bad puns — the cheese-loving Wallace's bookshelf features titles like East of Edam and Grated Expectations — and double-entendres for the parents in the audience. There is at least one pretty good in-joke in there for film geeks too — a snippet of Art Garfunkel's song Bright Eyes, from the rabbit-themed cartoon Watership Down, is heard on a car stereo. Park also tips his hat to the British love of gardening, King Kong and the Hammer Horror movies.

Pirates! Band of Misfits

It's not every kid's flick that features Queen Victoria, the Elephant Man and Charles Darwin. Pirates! Band of Misfits, however, isn't like most kids' movies. It's splendid side-splitting swashbuckling fun that mixes gentle family friendly humour, with some absurdist Monty Python style gags and Aardman's usual whimsy. There is so much going on here you may want to see this more than once to catch all the sight gags and throwaway lines on offer.

Flushed Away

For the first time ever, Aardman put their clay figures into storage and took a step into the 21st century, making a film that looks a great deal like one of their homemade stop-motion extravaganzas, but is actually computer animated. Flushed Away, the story of an upper class pet mouse flushed down the loo by a bullying rat, features great animation, an all-star British voice cast and something that all kids love — toilet humour.

It swirls along at quite a clip, effortlessly mixing literate verbal and visual jokes — we glimpse a cockroach reading Kafka's Metamorphosis — with potty humour that'll appeal to the kids.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Fantastic Four ★★
Shaun the Sheep Movie ★★★★
The Gift ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
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ANIMATION

Shaun the Sheep

Director: Mark Burton, Richard Starzak
Staring: Justin Fletcher

When Shaun decides to take the day off and have some fun, he gets a little more action than he bargained for. A mix-up with the Farmer, a caravan, and a very steep hill lead them all to the Big City and it's up to Shaun and the herd to return everyone safely.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 99% Audience: 82%



DRAMEDY

Ricki and the Flash

Director: Jonathan Demme
Starring: Meryl Streep

In a film loaded with live performances, Meryl Streep stars as Ricki, a guitar heroine who gave up everything for her dream of rock 'n' roll stardom, but is now returning home to make things right with her family. Streep stars opposite her real-life daughter Mamie Gummer.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 61% Audience: 87%



DRAMA

Dark Places

Director: Gilles Paquet-Brenner
Starring: Charlize Theron, Christina Hendricks

Twenty-five years after testifying against her brother as the person responsible for massacring her entire family, a haunted woman (Charlize Theron) is approached by a secret society that specializes in complex, unsolved cases. Based on the novel by Gillian Flynn.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 35% Audience: 94%



MYSTERY & SUSPENSE

The Gift

Director: Joel Edgerton
Starring: Jason Bateman, Rebecca Hall

Simon and Robyn are a young married couple whose life is going just as planned until a chance encounter with an acquaintance from Simon's high school sends their world into a harrowing tailspin. After a series of uninvited encounters and mysterious gifts prove troubling, a horrifying secret from the past is uncovered.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 92% Audience: 79%



ACTION & ADVENTURE

Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation

Director: Christopher McQuarrie
Starring: Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson

With the IMF disbanded, and Ethan (Tom Cruise) out in the cold, the team now faces off against a network of highly skilled agents hellbent on creating a new world order.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 93% Audience: 92%



DRAMEDY

Cocksure lads

Director: Murray Foster
Starring: Lyndon Ogbourne

The Cocksure Lads, a band from England, come to Toronto on their first-ever North American tour. Ten minutes after arriving, they get into a fight over royalties and break up. The Lads scatter across the city, and spend the day drinking, fighting, meeting girls, falling in love, and searching for a claw-foot bathtub. Through it all they learn what it means to be a band.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NO SCORE YET Audience: 50%







Demi Lovato, Avril Lavigne and Ashley Tisdale lend voices to Charming. @AVRILLAVIGNE INSTAGRAM

Pop stars to voice fairy-tale heroines

ANIMATED MOVIE

The animated musical is slated for a spring release

Avril Lavigne and Ashley Tisdale will join Demi Lovato in voicing fairy-tale heroines for the animated musical comedy Charming.

Lavigne took to Twitter to announce the news, calling the trio "Triple Trouble," while entertainment company 3QU Media confirmed the news on Twitter as well.

Also joining the cast is Chinese pop star G.E.M.

In the film, Lavigne will voice Snow White, Tisdale will play Cinderella and G.E.M. Sleeping Beauty.

Lovato will play the female lead, Lenore.

The voice of Prince Charming has yet to be revealed.

In the film, a cursed Prince Philip Charming must find his true love before his 21st birthday or risk losing all claim to the throne.

The film is produced by John H. Williams who was behind Shrek, and will be written and directed by Ross Venokur.

Charming is set to be released next spring.

AFP

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- David Rooney, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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7 HOLLYWOOD MOVIES TACKLE TROUBLED MINDS

This may be the summer of the mental-illness movie. Sympathetic portrayals of people dealing with mental illnesses help broaden public understanding of these little-discussed conditions and show the challenges sufferers face. Here's a look at recent and forthcoming films dealing with mental illnesses **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

1 Welcome to Me



Kristen Wiig stars as a woman with borderline personality disorder who wins the lottery. She immediately stops taking her medication and pours millions of dollars into producing her own talk show, where she discusses her high-protein diet, re-enacts formative moments from her life and performs amateur veterinary procedures. Tim Robbins co-stars as her psychiatrist. The film is available to rent online.



2 The End of the Tour

Author David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel) is finishing up his promotional tour for Infinite Jest when he agrees to an interview with Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky (Jesse Eisenberg). Lipsky alternately tries to befriend and prod Wallace, who becomes increasingly frustrated and self-conscious. The film is based on Lipsky's book, which was published after Wallace's 2008 death.

3 What Happened, Miss Simone



This biopic shows the life of Nina Simone, from her public persona as a renowned singer, pianist and civil rights activist to her private struggles with abusive behaviour and bipolar disorder. This documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, is available on Netflix.



4 Amy

A look at the talent and career of Amy Winehouse, and how fame and her battle with bulimia, depression and addiction contributed to her death at age 27. The film is in theatres now.

5 Love & Mercy



Focused on two significant periods in the life of The Beach Boys songwriter Brian Wilson. Paul Dano plays the musician in the late 1960s, when he experienced a creative surge and the onset of mental illness. John Cusack plays Wilson later in his life, overmedicated and controlled by a domineering psychiatrist (Paul Giamatti) until he finds love with future wife Melinda Ledbetter (Elizabeth Banks). The film is in theatres now.



6 Infinitely Polar Bear

Writer-director Maya Forbes based this story on her own childhood experiences. Mark Ruffalo plays a bipolar dad hospitalized after a mental breakdown. Upon his release, he's left to care for his two young daughters when his wife (Zoe Saldana) goes away to graduate school. The film is in theatres now.

7 I Smile Back



Sarah Silverman stars as a deeply troubled suburban mother struggling with the destructive effects of an unnamed mental condition. She complains that lithium makes her gain weight, so she self-medicates with cocaine, alcohol and promiscuous sex, endangering the life she loves with her adoring husband and their two kids. The film is scheduled to be released in October.

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Canadian singer Buffy Sainte-Marie says fake headdresses are not 'paying us a compliment.' CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sainte-Marie slams trendy headdresses

MUSIC

Canadian-Cree crooner says headwear is 'inappropriate'

Buffy Sainte-Marie has seen fashion-conscious fans show up to concerts wearing headdresses as a trendy statement — and she's seen enough.

"When it comes to things like headdresses, there are some things that are actually, factually, personally, deeply cultural to our heritage," the 74-year-old musical innovator said in an interview in Toronto this week.

"To some guy who's got models in high heels, bikini bottoms, pasties and a big headdress, and everybody's drunk — I want people to understand why that is painful or disgusting, why that is negative to us.

"It'd be like if you really loved your grandmother or your mom and all of a sudden you're watching wrestling on TV and you see your mom's picture on some wrestler's crotch.

"It's inappropriate. It's not funny. It doesn't help."

For the past few years, headdresses have become a popular — and controversial — fashion accessory. The trend seems to rear its ugly head with particular frequency at summer music festivals.

Jessica Simpson flaunted a headdress on Instagram, Pharrell Williams in the pages of Elle UK, Karlie Kloss on a Victoria's Secret runway, Gwen Stefani in a music video, and Vanessa Hudgens at Coachella.

Recently, festivals have fought back against the misguided trend. Osheaga, WayHome, Boots and Hearts, Heavy Montreal, Ile Soniq and the Edmonton Folk Festival have all issued bans in various forms on the fake indigenous headwear.

Still, Sainte-Marie says the trend endures.

"We see it a lot in Europe, especially in Germany," said Sainte-Marie, who was recently shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize for her fiery album Power in the Blood.

"You see these people showing up and they have handmade, craftsy, fake headdress-like things, and they somehow think they're paying us a compliment.

"But we let them know."

Still, Sainte-Marie — the decorated owner of an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, a Gemini and two Juno Awards — stops short of calling for an outright ban. She just wants anyone donning a headdress to understand how it will make an Aboriginal person feel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOSSIP IN BRIEF

Dre to donate album royalties

Dr. Dre says he will donate royalties from his new album to the city of Compton for a new performing arts facility.

In an interview with Zane Lowe on Beats 1 Radio, Dre said he spoke to Compton Mayor Aja Brown about ways to give back to the city with the release of his first album in 16 years.



The rapper said Thursday he "decided to donate all of my artist royalties from the sale of this album to help fund a new performing arts and entertainment facility for the kids in Compton."

Compton: A Soundtrack by Dr. Dre, was inspired by the N.W.A. biopic Straight Outta Compton, which opens Aug. 14, will be released Friday. Dre said he hopes "everybody appreciates all the hard work I put into this album." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thicke drops track with Minaj

Robin Thicke has dropped his latest single, featuring Nicki Minaj. In a single Twitter post, Thicke put to rest the rumour mill, quieting claims that he's engaged to his 20-year-old girlfriend April Love Geary, and announced his latest track Back Together."Not engaged, but I do propose that you check out my new track with my girl @NickiMinaj #BackTogether," he tweeted. AFP





The deadpan silence of Shaun the Sheep

ANIMATED FEATURE

Count on a sheep to pay tribute to the silent screen

Steve Gow
For Metro

He may be relatively new to Canadian audiences, but Shaun the Sheep is a wildly popular character everywhere else on the planet.

From Britain to Brazil and even Japan — where an exhibition recently attracted 30,000 fans in five days — the clever cloven-hoofed character has proved to be a massive hit for Aardman Studios, the U.K. creators behind stop-motion movies like Chicken Run and Wallace & Gromit.

"If we knew the answer to that (success), we'd have a few more characters probably," laughed Richard Starzak, co-director of the new Shaun the Sheep Movie. As writer and director on the hit BBC series ever since its debut in 2007, Starzak does hint the global reach of Shaun is simply because "silent comedy is universal."



Shaun takes a break from the farm in Shaun the Sheep Movie. CONTRIBUTED

As a series of seven-minute cartoons, that silence may be golden but it certainly presented a new challenge to Starzak and co-director Mark Burton when they had to stretch Shaun the Sheep into a feature-length film without the use of dialogue.

"That was an exciting challenge for both of us (and) we took two years on the script," said Starzak of Shaun's off-farm adventure into the big city. "We wanted it to have the integrity of the series so it just seemed to make sense to make it a silent film."

As such, the co-directing duo studied as many movies of the silent era as they could — including early-Hollywood gems from comedians like Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. However, as much as the comedy pioneers' physical slapstick informed the film's biggest laughs, the directors are also being commended for their slick inclusion of adult-oriented gags referencing everything from TV's Breaking Bad to the serial killer classic Silence of the Lambs.

"We never dumb down, we never think we should be writing for kiddies. We just make up a story that we enjoy and that makes us laugh," insisted Burton. "Having said that, there are a few moments where our sense of humour gets the better of us and we pop in a reference that is more aimed at adults. Or at least I hope Canadian children won't understand the Hannibal Lecter references."

> **"(Animators) based the character of Shaun on Buster Keaton inasmuch as Shaun doesn't have a great deal of expression. That deadpan face (was) followed as a model.**
> Co-director Richard Starzak

BAAAA STORY

A Shaun the Sheep history

1995 — Shaun the Sheep makes a short appearance in Oscar-winning Wallace & Gromit short A Close Shave.

2007 — BBC premieres the hit TV series Shaun the Sheep — eventually syndicated to over 170 countries

2008 — Shaun the Sheep gets his own Nintendo DS videogame

2011 — A live touring stage show called Shaun's Big Show premieres in Britain

2015 — London unveils more than 50 giant Shaun sculptures in such locations as Covent Garden and Trafalgar Square

2016 — Shaun the Sheep Land will open in Sweden's zoological theme park, Skånes Djurpark

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

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Andrew Cividino's Sleeping Giant is a coming-of-age drama coming to TIFF 2015. Left to right: actors Reece Moffett, Nick Serino and Jackson Martin. HANDOUT

Canadian films shine at 2015 TIFF

TIFF

Organizer 'thrilled' by strong, large doc selection

Canadian films headed to the Toronto International Film Festival this year include a survival tale from Patricia Rozema starring Ellen Page, a political satire from Philippe Falardeau, a horror film from Bruce McDonald, and a reimagining of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker's life, starring Ethan Hawke.

Festival organizers detailed the Canuck lineup at a press conference Tuesday featuring actors Paul Gross and Rossif Sutherland and veteran directors Rozema and Barry Avrich.

Sutherland stars in a Laos-set thriller called River, Rozema's film Into the Forest stars Page and Evan Rachel Wood as sisters left to fend for themselves, and Gross stars and directs the war film Hyena Road, which was announced last week.

Organizers also touted two surreal visions from auteur Guy Maddin, shorts from directors Don McKellar and Avrich, and several documentary outings from prominent journalists.

"We're really thrilled by the docs," senior programmer Steve Gravestock said.

"We had a lot of really strong doc submissions and I think it's one of our strongest selections and maybe the most docs we've selected in quite some time. It's a pretty broad range, too."

Former CBC personality and doc maker Avi Lewis hits the festival with This Changes Everything, inspired by the bestseller written by his partner Naomi Klein; longtime Maclean's film writer Brian D. Johnson directs the documentary Al Purdy Was Here, about the celebrated poet; Toronto Star investigative journalist Michelle Shephard co-directs Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr; and former Postmedia film critic Katherine Monk explores the glass ceiling in electronic dance music in Rock the Box.

Meanwhile, other dramatic titles include Falardeau's political feature My Internship in Canada; McDonald's Halloween-set Hellions; and Robert Budreau's '60s-era Born to be Blue, about Baker.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STUDY

Key to big-screen success? Be white, male

Looking for your big Hollywood break?

The ability to portray a straight, white male character will help, according to a new University of Southern California study that analyzed gender and racial inequality in top-grossing films from 2007-2014.

Among the top 100 fictional films of 2014, only 21 featured a female lead or co-lead — a decrease of seven per cent from 2013 — and no female actors above the age of 45 had a starring or co-starring role.

Meanwhile, of 4,160 speaking characters in films last year, only 19 were lesbian, gay or bisexual, and no transgender characters were portrayed at all.

"The landscape of popular cinema in 2014 remains skewed and stereotypical," researchers at USC Annenberg's Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative, who conducted the study, found.

"Movies continue to distort the demographic reality of their audience. Film characters are overwhelmingly white and male, despite both population statistics and viewing patterns."

The study examined the demographics of 30,835 speaking or named characters in the 100 top-grossing films every year from 2007 to 2014 (excluding 2011).

Race: Of the top 100 films in 2014, 73.1 per cent of characters were white, compared to 12.5 per cent black, 5.3 per cent Asian, 4.9 per cent Hispanic, and 4.2 per cent qualified as "other" (Middle Eastern, American Indian, Hawaiian, etc.)

This demographic breakdown remained largely constant from 2007 to 2014, with the percentage of white characters staying above 71 per cent every year.

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Charlize Theron inhabits 'Dark Places'

FEMALE LEADS

Oscar-winning actress drawn to 'conflicted' protagonists



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Despite being one of the most successful stars in Hollywood, Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron is painfully aware of how rare it is in popular film to come across a fully realized female protagonist that has some edge.

"It's really interesting when you get to play a woman that is layered and conflicted and has certain human attributes that might not be that attractive, which is part of the human condition," she says.

"Somehow, because we haven't seen enough of it in cinema, it kind of sticks out like a soar thumb and people comment on it."

While she's not a fan of the state of female characters in movies, she understands why people are focused on them.

"People are talking about it because there has been such a lack of it," she says.

"I can't say that I'm attracted to angry, dark people. I think what I'm attracted to is characters to me that feel very truthful to the embodiment of a full woman. It's just refreshing to see women like Gillian write women like that. It feels authentic and real."



Charlize Theron stars in Dark Places, based on Gillian Flynn's novel of the same name. Flynn also wrote the book behind the blockbuster adaptation, Gone Girl. CONTRIBUTED

CHARACTER STUDY
Charlize Theron won an Oscar for her role as Aileen Wuornos in Monster, a film based on the life of a prostitute-turned-serial killer in Florida.

Some keeping an eye on Theron's career have suggested that she might be drawn to these types of darker roles because of her own rocky history — Theron's mother shot and killed her abusive husband in self-defense in 1991.

But the Oscar-winning actress insists those people are seeing connections where there aren't any.

"It's a very easy assumption to make that because I had a very tragic event happen in my life, that that was why I wanted to make this story, and it couldn't be further from the truth.

"There really aren't any similarities. The circumstances of this tragedy has absolutely nothing in common with the tragedy that happened in my life," she says.

"I think that the correlation in this that people can relate to is that we all come from this family structure that we don't get to choose necessarily," Theron says.

"I have yet to meet somebody that doesn't have some form of skeletons in their closet from the family life that they lived."

BACKGROUND

Theron and Flynn cook up a recipe for success

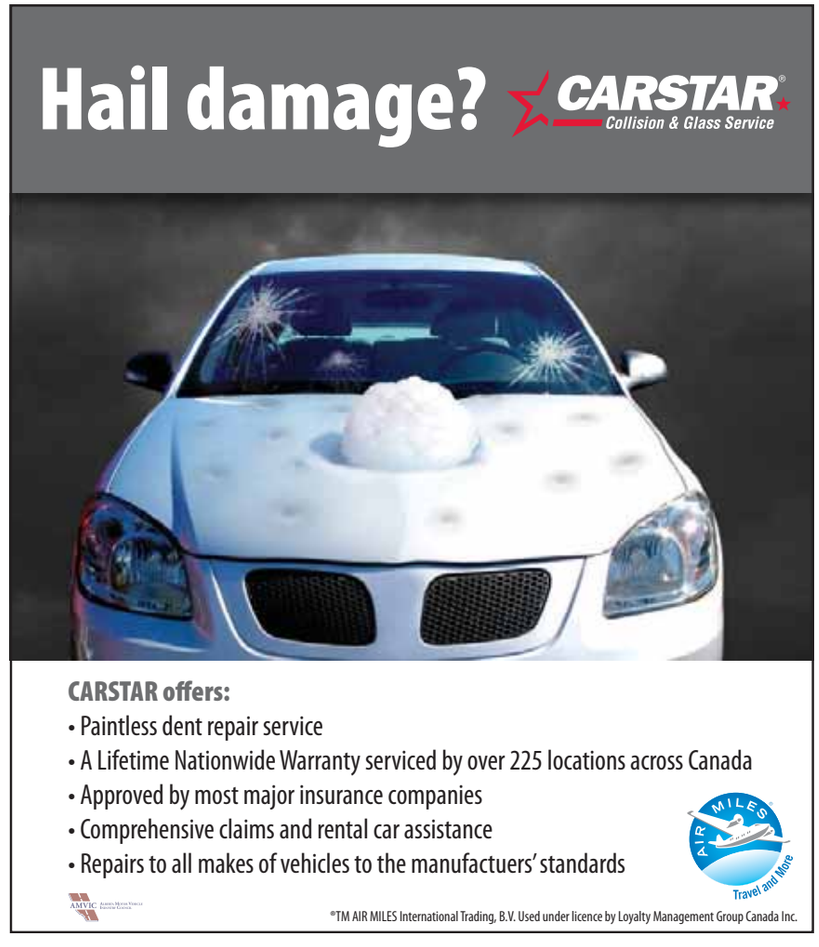
Now that she's starred in an adaptation of a Gillian Flynn novel, Charlize Theron has a foolproof plan for the rest of her acting career.

"We've talked about it," Theron says of Flynn and her future writing efforts.

"All of her characters are going to be five-foot-10 from now on. And flat-chested."

NED ERHBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD





'Up' up and away?

KICKSTARTER

Home that didn't move for mall might budge on barge

A Seattle home, known affectionately by local residents as the 'Up' house because of the aged owner's refusal to sell to make way for a shopping mall, is getting ready for a new lease on life.

The non-profit OPAL Community Land Trust has launched a $205,000 kickstarter campaign to relocate the house by barge to Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands, about 160 kilometres north.

"At the time we hit our goal, we can start all the process to get it (to Orcas Island). Our hope is that we'll be funded by the middle of September," said spokeswoman Judy Whiting said. She said that the campaign will cover various permits at both ends as well as the cost of the barge.

"There are a lot of logistics involving a lot of people that nobody usually thinks about much. But we've moved 10 houses so we're beginning to have quite a sophisticated understanding about what it takes," she added.

The house, built in 1900, was owned by the late Edith Macefield, who refused a $1-million offer in 2006 to sell and had the mall built around her.

Local people began putting balloons around the property because of similarities to the film, Up. In that film, an elderly man who is facing a bleak future in a retirement home turns his house into an airship with the aid of helium balloons.

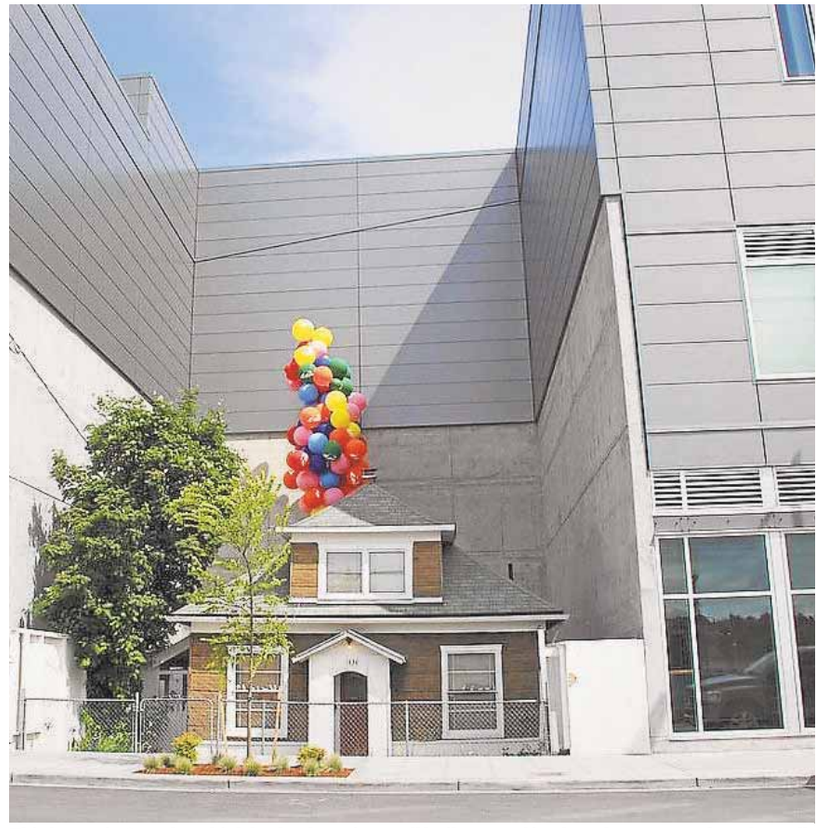
When Macefield died in 2008 at the age of 86, she willed the property to Barry Martin, the mall's construction supervisor. It changed hands several times, with the last owner defaulting while in the midst of a major renovation.

"The house itself looks terrible on the outside ... but it has good bones," Whiting said, noting the interior is basically new.

The land trust acquired the two-bedroom, one-bathroom house earlier this year and plans to offer it to a deserving family. "We can only guess that the house will continue to have some fame and, if it does, we want to be sure we find a family that can cope with that," Whiting said.

The land trust has a portfolio of 103 homes and 29 rental apartments comprising about 5 per cent of the island's year-round population, she added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



This house in Seattle, which had a shopping mall built around it when the owner refused to sell to a developer, might be relocated by barge to Orcas Island. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Fox banks on musical drama

BROADCAST TV

Empire's Lee Daniels to create the pilot

Lee Daniels, co-creator of Fox's mega-hit Empire, is developing a new pilot for the network about three young women trying to make it in the music business.

News of this prospective music drama, Star, was delivered by Fox bosses Dana Walden and Gary Newman at a gathering of TV critics Thursday.

Star would follow on the huge success of Empire, which arrived in January and not only became the biggest hit of the TV season — averaging 17 million viewers weekly — but also provided a shot in the arm for broadcast overall, the executives declared.

Daniels' new project is set against the music business in Atlanta and tells the story of three women who form a band.



Mariah Carey, who is to guest star on Empire, with Empire creator Lee Daniels with. GETTY IMAGES

Also announced

• A crossover event, timed to Halloween, for Bones and Sleepy Hollow, which will include, respectively, a headless corpse and zombie Redcoats.

• Besides previously announced news that Michael Chiklis will join the cast of Gotham, Jason Sudeikis will join his former Saturday Night Live castmate Will Forte for season two of the latter's comedy The Last Man on Earth. And rapper Pitbull will guest star and perform on the second season of Empire.

• A season-long victory lap for American Idol as it heads toward its conclusion. But the music-competition show will also stick to business for its gala farewell cycle. "The producers feel very committed to finding the 15th American Idol and not let the search ... be lost in the celebratory element of the show," said Walden.

Traditional broadcast

In a world where streaming video networks are grabbing eyeballs and much glory, Newman was asked what traditional broadcast TV networks can still offer. He pointed to Empire.

"You can really create a cultural event and a social event," he said. Thanks to social media buzz and word-of-mouth with each episode aired, "viewer interest fed on itself. The audience continued to grow, because our viewers were doing the marketing for us."

TV REBOOT

Prison Break bros are back

Also under way is a reboot of Prison Break. Originally airing on Fox from 2005 to 2009, this serial drama will bring back its stars, Wentworth Miller and Dominic Purcell, who play beleaguered brothers, for a 10-episode arc.

The original series has been a fixture on Netflix, where it demonstrated sustained popularity as "a whole new generation has caught up" with it, said Walden.

The network had already announced another revival: a series based on the 1980 film Urban Cowboy, which may premiere as soon as mid-season.

> **You can really create a cultural event and a social event**
> Fox boss Gary Newman

'The truth is out there'

Sure to stir things up as a TV event: The midseason return of the long-ago bombshell The X-Files.

A brief clip from this much-anticipated revival was screened for critics, which found Mulder (David Duchovny) still looking for the truth out there:

"This is not an alien conspiracy!" Mulder tells his long-ago partner Scully (Gillian Anderson). "This is a conspiracy of men!"

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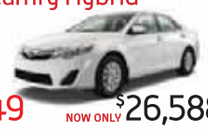
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2401945
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Marvel's first family is struggling

FANTASTIC FOUR

This franchise has had some serious growing pains



Kate Mara as Sue Storm, and Michael B. Jordan as Johnny Storm in a scene from Fantastic Four. BEN ROTHSTEIN/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While Marvel's X-Men and the Avengers have built their big screen empires into well-oiled billion-dollar franchises, the Fantastic Four have floundered with never-was and the never-should-have-been adaptations.

First there was the Roger Corman-produced film that was killed before it hit theatres in 1994, and then two critically loathed, but decently profitable attempts in the mid-2000s with future Captain America Chris Evans as the Human Torch.

The Fantastic Four are among Marvel's longest-running series and most beloved groups. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the scientists-turned-superheroes were relatable and wry in their interactions as a team — even when they weren't fighting supervillains.

When it debuted in November 1961, it was a refreshing revelation that helped inform the Marvel voice and set a path for Iron Man and Spider-Man.

The family aspect is derived from the brother and sister pairing of Sue and Johnny Storm, the bond between the four after they get powers, and the fact that Sue and Reed Richards eventually become Marvel's most stable couple.

But the movies have yet to get them right, or devise a structure to introduce them to fans and potential fans.

So much like Sony's two Spider-Man reboots, Fox is trying again to resurrect the first family with a cast of fresh faces in Miles Teller, Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara, and Jamie Bell, and a promising but essentially untested director at the helm in Josh Trank. The film opens Friday.

Trank's breakout, the found footage sci-fi thriller Chronicle was the kind of sleeper hit that can make a novice filmmaker's name in Hollywood. Produced for a mere $12 million by Fox, Chronicle ended up making $126 million worldwide in 2012.

It would also be the unintentional tryout that made Trank a no-brainer to revive the thematically similar Fantastic Four.

Fox set Simon Kinberg, who'd already succeeded in helping craft the worlds of X-Men: First Class and X-Men: Days of Future Past, to produce and co-write the origin story.

Trank cast his Chronicle star Jordan as Johnny Storm/Human Torch, who suggested his That Awkward Moment co-star Miles Teller for the part of the genius scientist Reed Richards/Mister Fantastic. Mara and Bell came aboard too as Sue Storm/Invisible Woman and Ben Grimm/The Thing and they were off, each knowing that success could mean a multi-film, multi-year commitment.

Late game reshoots caused some speculation that the film had problems. But, reshoots are fairly standard for big films. It was mostly a headache getting the cast — all of whom were off shooting other films — into the same room.

In the midst of this, eyebrows were further raised after Trank's mysterious no-show at the fan event Star Wars Celebration, and his subsequent abrupt departure from the Star Wars anthology film he had been slated to direct.

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STAR METRO Content Solutions



Globe-trotting house music DJ Marc Kinchen a.k.a. DJ MK went from jamming in basements to a major Twitter shout-out from Mercdes Benz for his Look Right Through remix. CONTRIBUTED

House brings DJ MK to life

EDM

After a bunch of dead ends, Mark Kinchen hits a groove



Jesse Ship
For Metro Life

DJ MK was a sleeping giant.

It's safe to say that you're kind of a big deal when Mercedes-Benz is gushing about your songs on Twitter.

"It was totally random. All my friends were texting me about how Mercedes said they love playing my remix of Look Right Through in their vehicles!" laughs globe-trotting house music deejay Marc Kinchen, a.k.a. DJ MK, who started his career as a DJ/producer as a teen in the late '80s.

"Growing up in Detroit, music was really big, I had a band in high school and it seems like everyone was influenced by Prince. Everyone wanted to be in a band, sing and write songs."

Like most kids making music, they jammed in their basements. "It was unorthodox. We didn't know what we were doing. It's not like we spent a lot of time with record producers, but we thought we knew what we were doing. You didn't have to learn a lot back then about technology because there just wasn't that much to work with."

> **In the '90s where hip hop was the biggest thing, now house music is what that was**
> Mark Kinchen a.k.a. DJ MK

A lot has changed since then. After moving to New York and attaining a cult following in the underground scene MK became a go-to for record labels to remix their pop artists. In 1993, his remix of Celine Dion's Let It Go became a surprise No. 1 Billboard hit in the dance division, but the label still had no idea he even existed.

"I looked up to Quincy Jones at the time and that's where I wanted to be. Outside of the cool kids, house music wasn't getting the respect from the higher-ups in the business."

Instead, Kinchen worked his connections and wound up producing for Jay-Z, but the pop world was disillusioning. While he earned the respect he always wanted, the power politics of the industry turned him off. "It became too political. It became all about who you know, and who you can give kickbacks to," he shrugs with an audible "meh!"

That wasn't for him, either.

He then scored a stint in L.A. as Will Smith's in-house producer following his Big Willie Style album, but wound up working on his films instead. Another dead end.

It wasn't until Pitbull sampled his catchy, but ever-so-cheesy horns for Hotel Room Service from one his classic '90s records that he was rediscovered as a House music deejay, and MK was on his way back to the top, rubbing shoulders with the Diplos and Calvin Harrises of the day.

"In the '90s where hip hop was the biggest thing, now house music is what that was."

House music is pop music really, he says, and business is booming.

"The roles are totally reversed now. Record label presidents are now calling to get an MK remix. That's what I wanted it to be like in the '90s, but it just wasn't ready yet."

While there are still a few months to go before his first studio album drops, his new single, a summery '90s-tinged anthem Bring Me To Life featuring the 18-year-old vocalist Milly Pye, has just been released.

MK is a regular on the Ibiza club circuit but you can catch him in Toronto on Friday Aug. 7 at The Hoxton as part of their Focus Fridays series.

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A visitor browses a display commemorating former Reds player and manager Pete Rose at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum. PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati a baseball mecca

OHIO

All-Star host city ready to play ball with tourists all year round

The city that hosted baseball's All-Star Game last month was the home of a team that played like all-stars back in 1869.

The Cincinnati Red Stockings went 57-0 that year as baseball's first officially professional team. Player-manager Harry Wright's team added new players before the season, led by his brother, George, who was credited with a .633 batting average and 49 homers. Disbanded because of financial issues after two seasons, the team is being honoured this summer with a variety of hometown homages.

So, even though the powdered rosin has settled following the All-Star Game on July 14, Cincinnati still has plenty to love for baseball fans. Here are some of the offerings on hand to learn more about the city's rich baseball history, as well as other milestones of America's Pastime.

See the wall of balls

Adjacent to the Great American Ball Park, where the All-Star Game was played, the Reds' own Hall of Fame and Museum is filled with artifacts and interactive exhibits covering Cincinnati players from the Wrights to the "Big Red Machine" of the 1970s to the current team.

Chief curator Chris Eckes says it's difficult to estimate the number of artifacts and display items, which include historic baseballs, uniforms, gloves, documents and photos. Start counting with a wall of 4,256 baseballs representing hometown star Pete Rose's record career-hit total.

Special exhibits this summer are Stars of the Queen City, about Reds' all-stars through the years, and one on Tony Perez, the Cuban-born slugger also in the National Baseball Hall of Fame who later this summer will become the latest Reds star honoured with a statue outside the park.



The wall of 4,192 baseballs.

Wear your black socks

The Reds' museum and Legacy Tours have teamed up for a guided 90-minute walking tour called "1919 — The Year That Changed Baseball" focusing on a colourful cast of characters from that era led by Reds president August "Garry" Herrmann.

Herrmann is credited with brokering the deal that helped form the modern major league and giving Cincinnati its first World Series title, a distinction that was marred after eight members of the Chicago White Sox were banished from baseball for fixing the Series by "throwing" it to the Reds in what became known as the Black Sox Scandal.

The museum has added Sunday tours to its regular Saturday lineup, and will run through October.

One game, many people

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center has a new exhibit called Diversity in Baseball celebrating barrier-breaking players: black, Jewish, Native American, Latino, Asian and female — such as stars of the women's professional baseball league started during the Second World War as told in the movie A League of Their Own.

There are also displays on Jim Abbott, who overcame being born without a right hand to become a successful big-league pitcher who threw a 1993 no-hitter, and umpire Dale Scott, who last winter came out as gay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE BIG BAM

The Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal has the Queen City Baseball: Diamonds & Stars exhibit. A highlight is the audio playing in the background of Waite Hoyt's last Reds radio broadcast in 1965. Hoyt, a Hall of Fame pitcher, called games for more than two decades for the Reds while plugging for sponsor Burger Beer. An on-air trademark was his tales during rain delays about former New York Yankees teammate Babe Ruth. A typed script on display at the museum recounts Ruth's love for driving at high speeds, leaving a trail of chicken carcasses behind on country roads.

TRAVEL NOTES

Antarctic deal
To mark its 25th anniversary, Quark Expeditions is offering up to 25 per cent off bookings made and paid for before Sept. 30, 2015, for select cruises to Antarctica from Nov. 1, 2016 to March 15, 2017. This deal includes nine express-style fly/cruise voyages that get you to the seventh continent even quicker. Visit QuarkExpeditions.com.

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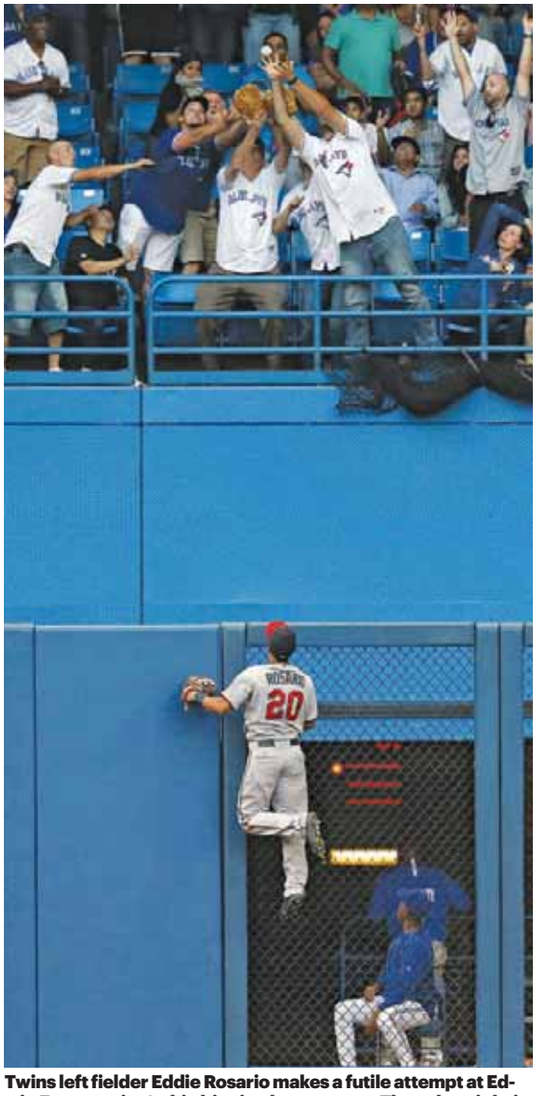
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Ryan Lochte won a record fourth straight gold in 200 IM at the swimming worlds



Twins left fielder Eddie Rosario makes a futile attempt at Edwin Encarnacion's third-inning home run on Thursday night in Toronto. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blue Jays singe Twins in finale

MLB

Toronto heads to New York for marquee series on 5-game roll

Edwin Encarnacion drove in four runs on two doubles and added his 21st home run of the season as the Toronto Blue Jays finished off a four-game sweep of the Minnesota Twins with a 9-3 win on Thursday.

The win extends Toronto's winning streak to five games going into a crucial weekend series at the American League East-leading New York Yankees. Toronto has won eight of its past nine games.

Dioner Navarro knocked in two more for the Jays (58-52), who had seven batters either drive in or score a run.

No. 9 hitter Ben Revere went 3-for-4 with three runs scored. The left fielder also showed his speed by advancing to third base on a bunt single.

Left-hander Mark Buehrle barely broke a sweat on the mound, allowing three runs on five hits in seven innings.

Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run home run off Buehrle in the fourth inning followed by a solo shot by Aaron Hicks in the seventh.

The Blue Jays further solidified their hold on an AL wild-card spot while dealing another blow to the free-falling Twins (53-53). Minnesota held a wild-card spot when the series started Monday.

Toronto scored back-to-back nine-run games after a 9-7 win on Wednesday.

Toronto was lights out defensively.

Kevin Pillar made a highlight-reel, full-extension diving catch in centre field in the eighth inning that was worthy of a standing ovation from the crowd of 34,847 at Rogers Centre.

Six of the Blue Jays' next nine games are against the Yankees, including ace David Price's next start Saturday and his next scheduled home start on Friday, Aug. 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blue Jays centre fielder Kevin Pillar makes a catch on Twins designated hitter Miguel Sano for the last out of the eighth inning on Thursday in Toronto. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THURSDAY In Toronto

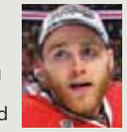
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BLUE JAYS	TWINS

IN BRIEF

Police probe Kane

The NHL says it is "following developments" of a police investigation involving Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane.

The Blackhawks said they are in the process of gathering information and declined further comment. The Buffalo News first reported the investigation Thursday.



Patrick Kane GETTY IMAGES

Neighbours of Kane, who lives in Hamburg, N.Y., in the off-season, told the Chicago Tribune that police arrived at his lakefront property Sunday night and that several plainclothes officers entered his house using flashlights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada tops Czechs to wrap up exhibition series

Dylan Strome and Nick Merkley each scored twice as Canada beat the Czech Republic 6-2 on Thursday at the world junior development camp in Calgary.

It was the last game of a four-game exhibition series between the Canadians, Russia and the Czech Republic.

Brayden Point and Olivier LeBlanc added the others for Canada. Jakub Zboril and Jiri Cernoch found the back of the net for the Czech Republic in the third period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Walker-Young's lofty ambition



Elisabeth Walker-Young
PARAPAN HANDOUT

PARAPAN 2015

Chef de mission wants Team Canada back on top again

Elisabeth Walker-Young watched from her Vancouver home as Canadian athletes shone in front of jam-packed crowds at the Pan American Games earlier this month. Now it's time for her team to do its part.

Canada is gunning for a top-three spot in the medals table at the Parapan Am Games, which open Friday, and like its Canadian Pan Am predecessor, is fielding its biggest team ever — 216 athletes.

"Seeing their performances, and seeing them wear the red and white with pride, our athletes always build off of that," said Walker-Young.

"Watching them and seeing Curt (Harnett, Canada's chef de mission for Pan Ams) lead the team, I don't know how we couldn't come in and be proud."

The four-time Paralympian in swimming is Canada's chef de mission for a Parapan Am squad that is looking to get back to a lofty spot it once occupied among the world's best.

At the Parapan Ams four years ago in Mexico, Canada finished eighth in gold medals, and fifth in overall medals.

Brazil dominated the Games, winning 197 medals and a year out from hosting the Rio Paralympics, will be a force to contend with in Toronto. The U.S. won 132 medals in Mexico, while the host country finished with 165. Canada brought home 63 medals from Guadalajara.

"We used to be leaders in the Paralympic nations, the Canadian Paralympic goal is to become leaders once again in the Paralympic movement," Walker-Young said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOLF

Couples returning to Canyon Meadows

With a sore back that has limited him to playing just five Champions Tour events this season, Fred Couples knows that defending his Shaw Charity Classic title this weekend won't be an easy task.

Fortunately for him, he's been known to tear it up at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club.

Couples won last year's event at the Calgary course in thrilling fashion by chipping in for eagle on the par-5, 18th hole to shoot a course record 9-under 61 before beating Billy Andrade in a one-hole playoff.

"To be honest, when I chipped it in, I didn't know I shot 61, I just knew I had a really good round," said Couples, 55, who has won 11 times in six seasons on the Champions Tour. "I haven't shot many 61s in my life and it was a good one here."

In order to win back-to-back titles, Couples will have to fend off challenges from the likes of Charles Schwab Cup points race leader Colin Montgomerie and Jeff Maggert, who has already won a pair of majors — the Regions Tradition in May and the U.S. Senior Open Championship in June — this season. "The main thing is I like the course," said Couples. "I feel like I should play well here and I want to play here every year and hopefully in the next few years win it again before I get too old."

Other golfers in the top 10 in the points race who are competing in Calgary include Kevin Sutherland (fifth), Joe Durant (sixth), Lee Janzen (seventh), Esteban Toledo (eighth), Andrade (ninth) and Woody Austin (10th).

Couples will start the first round on Friday morning in a group with Montgomerie and Miguel Angel Jimenez, who ranks 15th in the Charles Schwab Cup points standings despite playing in only five Champions Tour events so far this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fred Couples GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Phillies to call up versatile Loewen to pitch once more

Adam Loewen's baseball career has come full circle.

The Surrey, B.C., native — who was a pitcher and batter — will be called up on Friday by the Philadelphia Phillies from their triple-A affiliate, marking his first time in Major League Baseball as a pitcher since 2008.

Phillies second baseman Chase Utley, who has been on the disabled list since June 23 with right ankle inflammation, will also be activated with Loewen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kiwi Lee has one-shot lead at Bridgestone Invitational

Danny Lee made seven birdies for a 5-under 65 for a one-shot lead Thursday in his first time at the Bridgestone Invitational in six years. New Zealander Lee had a one-shot lead over Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk.

The major championship pairing of Jordan Spieth (Masters and U.S. Open) and Zach Johnson (British Open) produced two rounds of even-par 70. Some of that was rust from being off the last two weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RECIPE Grilled Peach, Arugula and Goat Cheese Salad



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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 4 minutes

Serves 6.

Ingredients
Dressing
- 2 Tbsp orange juice concentrate
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp honey
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 3/4 tsp minced ginger root
- Salt and pepper

Salad
- 2 large ripe peaches sliced in half, pit removed
- 6 cups arugula or baby spinach
- 1 small romaine head, chopped into bite size pieces
- 1/2 cup sliced red onion
- 1/3 cup toasted pecan halves
- 2 oz crumbled goat cheese

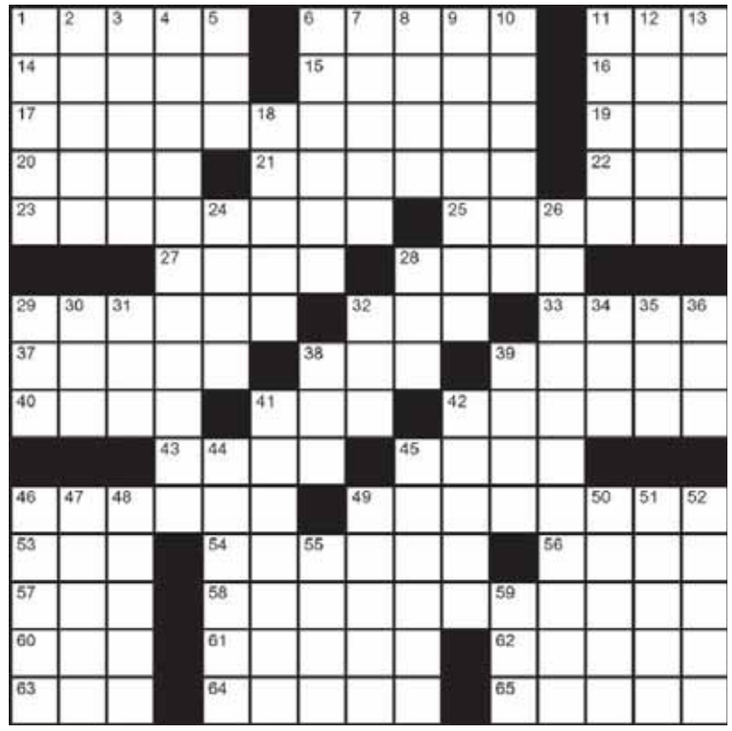
Directions
1. Dressing: Combine all the dressing ingredients in a small bowl.
2. In a hot grill pan or barbeque, grill peaches for two minutes per side. Remove to cool. Cut into wedges.
3. In a large serving platter, combine lettuces, onion, pecans and goat cheese. Add dressing and mix well.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 190
- Protein 5 g
- Carbohydrates 13 g
- Fibre 4 g
- Total fat 14 g
- Saturated fat 3.5 g
- Cholesterol 5 mg
- Sodium 105 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pro golfer Mr. Watson
6. __ Bell (Anne Bronte's pen name)
11. Everybody
14. "We're finally __ own." - Neil Young, "Ohio"
15. Trombone part
16. Grassland
17. Area of dunes in Spruce Woods Provincial Park in Manitoba: 2 wds.
19. Lodge
20. Perform, like Shania Twain
21. "You __ there." (Comment made to the no-show-ee)
22. Famous
23. Ms. Jolie
25. Julia Louis-Dreyfus role
27. Take 15
28. _-friendly
29. Blood glucose test finger pricker
32. 'Lion' suffix
33. Actor, __ Michael Murray
37. Ms. Remini's
38. Insect immobilizer
39. Prefix to 'graph' (Record player)
40. Mlle. cousin
41. Feel awful
42. Fireplace part
43. Not is
45. Auditioner's hope
46. Madonna song: "__/Ashtangi"
49. Celebration of Greek cuisine in Toronto: Krinos Taste of the __ (August 7th to August 9th, 2015)
53. Soup sort
54. __-waist dress
56. Ms. Loughlin of "Full House"
57. Prime Minister, e.g.
58. Canadian author of Sea of Slaughter: 2 wds.
60. Wedding words
61. Coral reef type
62. Showbiz bigwig
63. Hosiery hue
64. Au courant
65. Anna Karenina, written __ __ Tolstoy

DOWN
1. Elvis song: "__ Nova Baby"
2. Remove a brooch
3. Comics sound effect for the noise a spring makes!
4. Harvey's, for one: 2 wds.
5. Jackie O's hubby
6. Acquiesce
7. Ms. Bow, the girl in "It" (1927)
8. Prong
9. Peculiarity
10. Chocolate company
11. Excuse in court
12. Russian leader, b.1870 - d.1924
13. Jessica of "American Horror Story"
18. "The __" by Chubby Checker
24. Spike and Bruce
26. Dig It! August = __ Month, in Ottawa
28. PC 'key'
29. Bean and Cool J
30. __ Lingus (Ireland's flyer)
31. Natalie Cole's father
32. Water wiggler
34. Vertical's opp.
35. "__-Man" (2015) starring Paul Rudd
36. Play-__
38. Drollness
39. Ill-gotten riches
41. Create cartoons
42. Tea sweetener
44. Tennis great Mr. Edberg; or, "The Vampire Diaries" character
45. Seldom
46. Divvy up
47. Ms. Hopper of Hollywood's heyday gossip
48. Tori Spelling's father
49. Some pickles
50. Spur's small spiked wheel
51. Air conditioners company
52. "One __ (__ the Body)" by The Rolling Stones
55. Ship's figurehead site
59. Fairy queen in literature

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You must control your temper even if you have good reason to be angry. The current cosmic picture makes disputes look bigger than they are.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
What happens over the weekend is likely to throw some of your assumptions into disarray. It may be a painful experience but it is also a useful one, especially if it inspires you to see things from a different point of view.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something in your life is coming to an end. If you try to hold on to it any longer it will be snatched from your grasp by forces much greater than you know how to deal with. Bow to the inevitable.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There is so much that you need to stay in control of that you are beginning to fear it could all fall apart. If you stay cool, you will come through unscathed. Trust yourself.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will have to give up something and it won't be an enjoyable experience. However, its presence in your life is blocking even better things from coming in. Let it go.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find yourself pulled between extremes over the next 24 hours. Find ways to put off making a decision as long as you can. You are under no obligation to choose one path or the other.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are spending too much time and energy on something that is of no real importance. Get your priorities in the right order. If you don't, the planets may force it on you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may never goes back on a decision but you will have to make an exception to that rule today. Once the consequences come into focus you will quickly realize you got it wrong.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to focus on what you have in common with other people rather than on what divides you. The current cosmic picture is making arguments more likely, but don't forget you have free will.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
According to the planets you have reached a point of no return. You have no choice now but to push ahead into the unknown. Where is your sense of adventure?

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Strive to stay on good terms with partners and colleagues. If you fall out it may be a long time before you get the chance to patch things up.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
At some stage today or over the weekend you will have to decide whether to follow your dream or to scale back your aspirations and take the same well-trodden path that so many have taken before you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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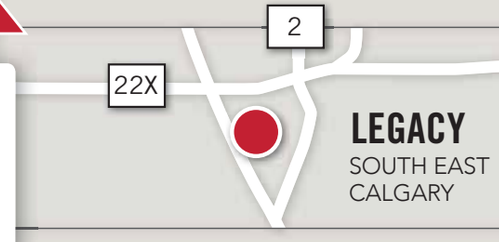
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